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Bonn makes conventional disarmament proposals

Frankfurter Allgemeine

The Warsaw Pact and Nato have repeatedly professed their support for disarmament.

The MBFR talks in Vienna on the mutual balanced force reduction in Central Europe, in progress for 14 years, have not produced the desired results.

So both sides feel the time has come for a new line of approach.

Its aim is disarmament from the Atlantic to the Urals, in line with the proposal put forward by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachov.

The 23 Warsaw Pact and Nato member-states are envisaged as negotiating partners.

Efforts are currently under way to elaborate a negotiating mandate, an agreement on the exact terms of reference for negotiations.

Nato members must first clarify their own ideas and reach agreement on a disarmament concept. The Foreign Ministers agreed on this in Reykjavik last year.

The Bonn government — the driving force in this process — has adopted a concept and presented it to fellow Nato members for discussion.

Bonn's disarmament proposal seeks to reduce to parity the conventional forces of the Warsaw Pact and Nato in Central Europe.

The term "Central Europe" has been redefined. It refers to Europe stretching in a West-East direction from the Atlantic to the Urals, excluding the area north of the Elbe and south of the Alps as well as the military districts of Leningrad and Odessa.

Bonn justifies this demarcation by claiming that it does not want to make proposals which could in any way give the impression that it is making up its alliance partners' for them.

The groundwork for the disarmament proposal made it clear how great the discrepancy is between an abstract profession of support for asymmetrical disarmament to as low a parity level as possible and the elaboration of a concrete proposal.

Bonn's concept envisages a scaling down on both sides to 46 "division equivalents" and a total of 14,000 battle tanks, 7,500 armoured infantry combat vehicles and 7,500 field guns.

For Nato this would mean a reduction of 800 battle tanks, 400 armoured infantry combat vehicles and 400 field guns. Nine-thousand soldiers could then be sent home.

The Warsaw Pact would have to cut back its armed forces by 25,000 battle tanks, 11,000 armoured infantry combat vehicles and 22,000 artillery field guns; 220,000 soldiers could be sent home.

Nato would have to disband two of its 48 divisions, whereas the Warsaw Pact would have to eliminate 80 of its 126 divisions.

One high-ranking Bonn government representative quite rightly asked whether the Warsaw Pact is likely to be willing to do this.

If Moscow claims to support the objective of asymmetrical disarmament of conventional forces to parity levels and maintains that the funds previously used for Soviet troops should be channelled into the modernisation of the Soviet economy the Kremlin must take these proposals seriously.

A cutback from 48 to 46 divisions on the western side would leave Nato with 95 per cent of its currently stationed troop level in Central Europe.

The question why the proposal does not set out to reduce Nato's own arms level any further is answered with reference to the need to retain defensive capability.

Disarmament to 75 per cent of the current equipment level would already "disorganise" the defence of the Federal Republic of Germany, the experts say.

Before the Warsaw Pact makes a move, however, the concept forwarded by the Bonn government must be accepted by the other Nato partners.

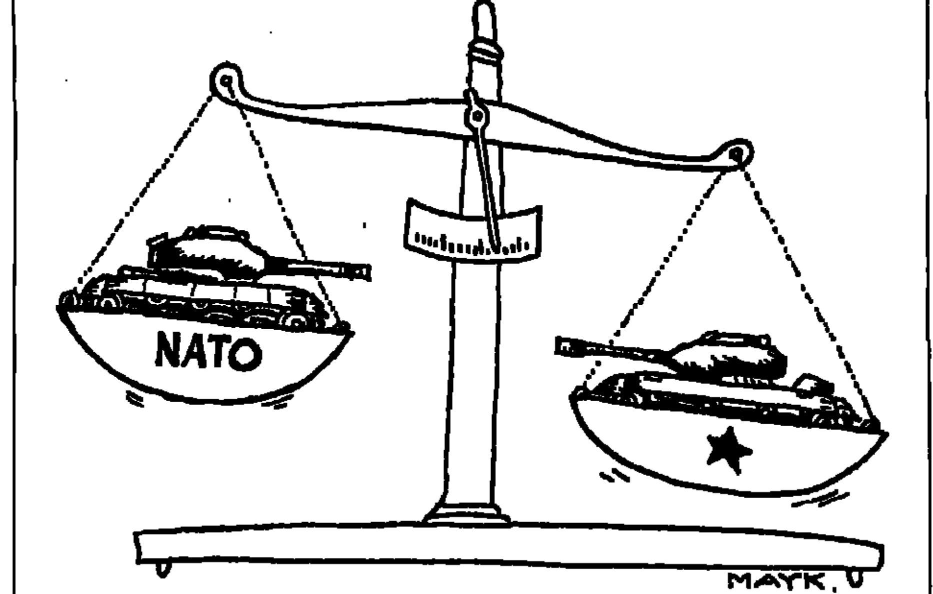
Reservations exist, for example, with regard to the introduction of armoured infantry combat vehicles as a "main arms category" in negotiations alongside the battle tanks and artillery field guns.

Some alliance partners are currently equipping their armies with new armoured infantry combat vehicles and are not keen on scrapping them again straight away.

The difficulties involved in developing a clear definition of what an armoured infantry combat vehicle is will probably cause greater problems.

Bonn feels the inclusion of this arms category is absolutely essential.

Modern vehicles in this category are equipped with guns which are comparable with the equipment of battle tanks in the Second World War.



(Cartoon: Mayk/Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung)

Together with mobile artillery they could be used for fast and extensive operations.

Their deployment, therefore, serves the most important objective of conventional disarmament: *the elimination of invasion capability.*

Altogether, the German proposal would like to see four aspects accepted as criteria in negotiations.

First, the main arms categories should be tanks, artillery above 10-centimetre calibre and the armoured infantry combat vehicles.

Second, negotiations should focus on large military units, beginning with the battalion and the brigade on the western side and the division on the eastern side.

Third, the logistical support capacity, i.e. the capacity of supply units, should also be ranked as a part of the offensive capability.

Fourth, the speed with which troop reinforcements can be deployed and total troop strength achieved should also be taken into account.

The ability of the Warsaw Pact and marked discrepancy in the abilities of the Warsaw Pact and Nato in the latter case is regarded as a particular problem by Western military experts.

If a time axis of 40 days in taken as a reference base Nato currently has only 14 division equivalents in the Federal Republic of Germany.

This gives an idea of the number of units actually deployed in the Federal Republic, since the nominal figure of divisions there is 22.

On the other side of the intra-German border 48 division equivalents stand at the ready and experts feel that this is six more than the minimum requirement for an attack by the first *strategic echelon.*

During the first five days Nato could increase its troop level to 30 division equivalents, whereas the Warsaw Pact could make 68 divisions operational during the same period, jacking up this figure to 86 in the three subsequent days.

Nato could only increase the number *of divisions to 31 during that time.*

The extrapolation of the time axis shows that the superiority of the Warsaw Pact remains.

After 20 days it could deploy almost 100 division equivalents and reach its maximum troop strength of 126 divisions within 40 days.

Nato could only respond with at most 48 divisions after that period. Bonn feels that reducing the number of divisions is not enough to offset this imbalance.

Delaying effects, it says, should be included in the deployment structure of the remaining divisions, for example, via the storage of part of their equipment in depots which are far behind the front line.

Differences have already emerged between the ideas of the Warsaw Pact and Nato even before a negotiating mandate has been drawn up.

According to Western experts Moscow would like to see tactical-operational nuclear forces "organically included" in negotiations as well as respective air forces. Nato has reservations about both.

Above all, the West does not want negotiations on weapons which can be equipped with nuclear warheads — aircraft, missiles and field guns.

To include this category, the West fears, would lead to a Soviet demand for a reduction of the West's airborne superiority as a service in return for the reduction of Soviet superiority regarding

Continued on page 11

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The next issue of THE GERMAN TRIBUNE will be dated 17 April 1988

■ FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Panama exemplifies the motives of US policy in Central America



Mango in Panama is not just a tropical fruit; it is a political slogan. It stands for "M(anuel) A(ntonio) N(oriega) go!" — the Opposition's demand for the resignation of the country's strong man.

General Noriega, commander of the Panamanian National Guard, has crushed one coup, but how long will he be able to hold on to power?

The citizen's crusade against his regime began last June. After initial hesitation the United States backed the Panamanian Opposition's demands and has imposed economic and financial sanctions.

General Noriega, formerly associated with the CIA, has established links with the East Bloc and with Libya's Colonel Gaddafi.

In February he was indicted in Florida on charges of involvement in narcotics smuggling. He has now published letters written to him by the US Food and Drug Administration thanking him for his help in fighting drug-smuggling.

This one case demonstrates the paradox and dilemma of US policy toward Central America.

It consists for one of the pathos of a universal US mission in the service of freedom and democracy.

On 2 December 1823 President Monroe proclaimed that the Americas were no longer available for colonisation by European powers. The use of oppression or force on American states that had declared their independence would be considered an unfriendly act toward the United States.

President Wilson's January 1918 14-Point Programme was a peace draft designed to make the world safe for democracy.

After the Second World War, in connection with Communist subversion in Greece, President Truman renewed Washington's pledge to support all free peoples threatened with subjugation.

In 1962 President Kennedy gave a further assurance that the United States would "go anywhere" and "pay any price" to defend freedom.

President Reagan's support for the Afghan and anti-Sandinista resistance must be seen in the light of this same tradition.

But the pathos of freedom and self-determination has always been obstructed by the striving to extend America's sphere of power and influence and to ensure US security.

This clash was evident even when the Monroe Doctrine was first proclaimed. *Bismarck, incidentally, felt the doctrine* was "outrageous."

In Central America both motives of US international expansion, freedom and democracy and power politics, have clashed hard.

Every country in the peninsula extending from Mexico to Panama has experienced US intervention since the 19th century. The United States is not just the most keenly-sought partner in the region; it is also the powerful, threatening, seemingly hostile "northern neighbour."

In the mid-1980s there was a promising trend when, in 1984, a Christian Democrat came to power, defeating an extreme right-winger associated with the "death squadrons."

Dictatorship came to an end in Guatemala at the beginning of 1986. In Honduras civilian power changed hands.

With Presidents Duarte, Cerezo and Azcona democracy and peace seemed to stand a chance in Central America.

Nicaragua, with its urge to export the Sandinist revolution, mainly in the form of logistical and military support for Marxist guerrillas in neighbouring countries, was felt to be a troublemaker.

Managua was felt to be a mischief-maker — both from Washington and in Central America itself.

After years of vain attempts by the Contadora Group President Arias of Costa Rica sought last year to reach agreement with all concerned.

Central America's fragile democracies were to be stabilised. Peace was to be restored. US security needs were to be respected. The Sandinistas were to be offered face-saving terms.

The resumption of fighting on the border between Honduras and Nicaragua shows how tough this task is. In Central America war has always been the rule — and peace the exception.

US military aid is to help the new *democracies to ward off Marxist* subversion. Economic aid is to make social reforms possible.

Not until social reforms have been implemented will the desire for peace and democracy take root.

But traditional willingness for violence in Central America, fuelled by archaic sources, has joined forces with the brutality of guerrilla and low-intensity warfare.

Pacification of a region where feudal conditions and hectic attempts at modernisation exist side by side, where class struggle and racial conflict intensify each other, is tantamount to squaring the circle.

There is agreement on one point only: that a US intervention would *deprive* any regional realignment of its *legitimacy*.

Despite the special US relationship with the country on either side of the Panama Canal this applies to Panama in equal measure.

When General Noriega, a tinpot dictator, calls President Reagan's bluff he is bound to enjoy a measure of domestic support — and sympathy in neighbouring countries.

Washington finds it hard to make friends in Central America who have democratic credentials and political credibility. This is a historic burden the United States must bear.

Günther Nonnenmacher

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 18 March 1988)

Gulf War is in full swing again on all fronts



What with a burning LPG tanker in the Gulf, poison gas warfare in Kurdistan, rocket attacks on Baghdad, rocket attacks on Teheran, artillery shelling of Basra and aerial bombardment of oil shipment facilities on Kharg island, the Gulf War is back in full swing on all fronts simultaneously.

Despite Persian gains in Kurdistan it is too early too say whether the military stalemate observers have long felt to exist has given way to Iranian superiority.

The United States is imperceptibly reducing its naval presence in the Gulf, while the inscrutable Soviet Union, which is courting Iran politically and supplying Iraq militarily, has now been accused by Teheran of supplying Soviet missiles Iraq claims to manufacture itself.

In political terms the scene seems no less irrational than it appears to be on the battlefield, especially now the superpowers have been joined by China.

Peking has long supplied Iran with Chinese-made missiles. It is now selling Saudi Arabia rockets with a range of nearly 3,000km (which would take them as far as Tel Aviv).

These Sino-Saudi rockets have saddled the region with one of the many exhibition bouts that are so typical of the Middle East.

In Israel people promptly recalled the Iraqi nuclear reactor that was felt in Jerusalem to be a threat and destroyed in 1981 in an an Israeli air raid.

Syria, which isn't normally considered an ally of Riyadh's, has expressed solidarity in the usual Arab manner: verbally. Any attempt by Israel to destroy the Saudi rockets would result in a Syrian attack on Israel.

Two days late, Cairo fulfilled its solidarity norm toward Riyadh, saying that an Israeli attack on Saudi Arabia would be rated as an attack on Egypt.

Saudi Arabia, which is not normally enthusiastic about publicity for its foreign policy, found itself beneath the bright lights for once and presented an argument it hoped would not appeal merely to devout Muslims.

The kingdom's sole concern, the Saudi authorities said, was to ensure the safety of the "holiest places in the world" — Mecca and Medina.

Israel in no way threatens their safety, and medium-range missiles can hardly be aimed at Iranian pilgrims who will soon be bound for the Muslim holy places again in large numbers and are likely to propound Iranian revolutionary ideas there.

Saudi Arabia is equally unlikely to aim its missiles at Teheran, Isfahan or Ghom. Iran would immediately bombard the seawater desalination plant at Jubail which supplies Riyadh with drinking water.

So there can only be speculation as to the reason why Riyadh has agreed to buy rockets from China.

A while ago Riyadh withdrew from the north of the Arabian peninsula a defence force consisting largely of Pakistani soldiers and designed to ward off an Israeli attack.

It presumably did so to save the expense of employing Pakistani mercenaries. Maybe the missiles are intended to replace these ground forces. Maybe, for that matter, they are intended as an extra psychological support for the Saudi



royal family, which feels the kingdom faces constant internal and external threats.

But not only the buyer matters. China, the seller, has more in mind than economic gains; it has a political objective.

Peking, having supplied Iran with Silkworm missiles, now feels it has a political plateau on the Arab side in the Gulf War.

Powers that supply both sides with arms, the Chinese political calculation may well be, are entitled to a say on both sides.

On this plateau the sole Chinese charges so far, the Iranians, are continuing to play a shrewd game in both military and political terms.

Their relations with the Gulf states have improved almost at a stroke now, whether out of military weakness or as a political calculation, they have refrained from launching a further full-scale attack on Basra.

There have been no reports of bomb raids (invariably attributed to Iran) in Kuwait for some time either. Kuwaiti politicians now see the possibility of a thaw in ties with Teheran.

Syria, Iran's sole Arab ally, has sent its diplomats round the Gulf since the end of last year in a bid to bring about a political rapprochement between conservative Arab sheikhdoms and revolutionary Iran.

The Syrians will for one be hoping to raise further, badly-needed financial support from the Gulf states. They have no qualms about practically nullifying diplomatic moves by King Hussein of Jordan.

At the Amman Arab summit King Hussein tried hard to reconcile Syria and Iraq and forge a united Arab front against Iran.

Iraq already has fears of an Arab betrayal of its war against Iran and has embarked on political confrontation with Syria.

On the military front it has stepped up its bombing and missile warfare, especially of Teheran, in a bid to so weaken Iran that it will have to sue for terms after all.

In the past these tactics have invariably proved a failure, so people caught between the fronts and in the cities will probably still have long to suffer from the ravages of the Gulf War.

Heiko Flottau

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, Munich, 25 March 1988)

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■ PARTY POLITICS

Baden-Württemberg poses problems for all parties



None of the political parties in Bonn, not even the CDU, was in a victory mood after the Baden-Württemberg state assembly elections.

The Christian Democrats may have retained their absolute majority of seats in the assembly but they lost percentage points just as the CDU has done in other polls since 1985.

In Baden-Württemberg the CDU failed to retain the absolute majority of votes cast it had held for 16 years.

It mainly owes its retention of an absolute majority in the state assembly to a tour de force by Premier Lothar Späth.

No-one wondered at CDU head office in Bonn where the party might have stood without him. There was no need; they all knew.

Herr Späth can afford to feel he was the real winner at the Baden-Württemberg polls, with the CDU in Bonn being able to bask in his reflected glory.

Chancellor Kohl sought to redirect a little of the glory to Bonn, arguing that he himself had been a leading campaigner in Baden-Württemberg.

As Federal chairman of the CDU he is bound to adopt this line of argument. He cannot want others to follow suit and adopt Herr Späth's successful strategy of limited conflict with Bonn.

Baden-Württemberg must, from the CDU leader's viewpoint, stay a special case. Even Herr Späth agrees, arguing that his approach must not be seen as an "export."

The CDU, he says, must decide on the merits of the case which approach to adopt. It cannot afford to rebuff the FDP in the *Länder* too often; otherwise the Bonn coalition would suffer.

Herr Späth skilfully played off Baden-Württemberg's strength against the coalition clashes in Bonn.

His strength consists of Baden-Württemberg's economic potential and the personal esteem in which he is held by members of all parties.

Can the Bonn coalition remain unaffected for the time being by the Baden-Württemberg election results, as Herr Kohl argues, even though Herr Späth may seek to push through amendments to the 1990 tax reform package in the Bundesrat?

The Free Democrats can certainly not be unaffected. Nor, above all, can the Social Democrats.

The FDP can best argue that Baden-Württemberg was an exceptional situation. Herr Späth's all-or-nothing approach cost them dearly at the polls.

The Free Democrats will need to wonder whether their voter appeal is adequate where Hans-Dietrich Genscher and Bonn's foreign policy are not at stake.

The Free Democrats have looked most shaky in connection with the proposed reform of the health service.

The SPD will be hardest put to explain why it, after making general headway, lost ground in Baden-Württemberg despite being the natural challenger and boasting a sound Opposition leader in Dieter Spöri.

SPD leader Hans-Jochen Vogel was irritated by a Bonn correspondent's query whether the Social Democrats had suffered at the polls from the debate on shorter working hours for less pay launched by his deputy, Oskar Lafontaine.

This reaction shows that he cannot rule out the possibility. SPD business manager Anke Fuchs simply says this issue must be "sounded out."

SPD strategists must be much more embittered by the failure of their new manifesto to attract Baden-Württemberg voters. That is a widespread SPD shortcoming in Lothar Späth's Baden-Württemberg. Many SPD supporters voted Späth because they were convinced their man would get nowhere.

To this extent the SPD's poor showing in Baden-Württemberg may be a special case, attributable to Herr Späth and not applicable elsewhere.

The Greens described their performance as a success for hard work heedless of party factions.

The *Realos*, or supporters of *Realpolitik*, hold the whip hand among the Greens. Their work has seemed more effective than that of *Fundis*, or fundamentalists, elsewhere.

Right-wing parties between them polled just over five per cent, which at first glance is bound to seem alarming.

But analysis of the election results reveals that most of these votes were cast by CDU supporters in rural areas.

After a difficult period of adjustment for the farming community the pendulum of support for right-wing parties is likely to swing back to the CDU, as it did in the 1970s.

Hans-Jörg Sottorf

(Handelsblatt, Düsseldorf, 22 March 1988)



Premier Lothar Späth (left) and Chancellor Kohl reviewing Baden-Württemberg election results in Bonn (Photo: dpa)

Right wing wins protest votes in rural areas

What can motivate over 253,000 Baden-Württemberg voters to back splinter parties, most of them conservative, not to say ultra right-wing? And how can their minds be changed?

Assuming not all these voters to be dyed-in-the-wool reactionaries or right-wing extremists, their behaviour must be viewed first and foremost as a protest vote.

Heinz Galinski, chairman of the Central Council of German Jews, may in general be right in saying that splinter parties have gained support because the established political parties are too concerned with industry and the economy and too little concerned with young people.

But young voters were by no means alone in supporting splinter groups in Baden-Württemberg, and their motives cannot be pigeonholed that simply; they are more varied.

They have no common denominator other than that of being protest votes. Scandals and affairs can be said to have depleted the fund of goodwill enjoyed by all the established parties.

Protest votes may also point to regional or local factors, such as dissatisfaction and frustration among farmers.

In areas where structural weakness triggers unemployment and fears for the future extreme right-wing slogans on political asylum or policy toward aliens will gain a readier hearing.

Splinter parties to the political right of the CDU fared best in rural areas. The conservative Ecological Party may well have benefited from the constant squabbling among the Greens.

The CDU has forfeited the support of religiously motivated anti-abortionists. The CDU/CSU has responded to this groundswell by planning abortion law amendments that are in dispute within the Bonn coalition.

There are other sectors in which the government and the CDU leaders are moving faster than their traditional supporters. Many feel the government's policy on the German Question is no longer sufficiently national or patriotic.

Efforts to give the CDU a more progressive or up-to-date image, as represented by politicians such as Rita

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Stop sniping, Chancellor warns coalition

Chancellor Kohl's appeal to his Bonn coalition partners to demonstrate greater solidarity was aimed in equal measure at the CDU, the CSU and the FDP.

All three coalition parties have sought to set themselves apart from the rest, thereby contributing toward the unfavourable impression created by the Federal government.

His further remark that it had not paid the FDP to constantly advocate views inconsistent with the terms of the coalition agreement was an extra warning shot across the Free Democrats' bows.

Herr Kohl can afford to sound a warning note. Premier Späth of Baden-Württemberg retained his absolute CDU *majority in the state assembly* by consistently refusing to court the FDP.

This policy led to a serious electoral setback for the FDP in Baden-Württemberg, where the Free Democrats were suddenly no longer needed to ensure a parliamentary majority.

The Chancellor has now sounded a similar note in Bonn, reminding the FDP that it too is bound by Cabinet discipline and that he has no intention of handling a too self-assured coalition partner with kid gloves.

This warning reflects his fear, based on experience, that the Free Democrats always react nervously when their support at the polls falls dangerously near five per cent (below which they would no longer qualify for parliamentary representation).

The FDP would do well to stand by the Bonn coalition to the hilt. Any further squabbles in Bonn will further reduce their chances of polling five per cent in Schleswig-Holstein in May.

Unlike the Baden-Württemberg CDU, Christian Democrats in Schleswig-Holstein are keenly interested in ensuring that the FDP is returned to the state assembly.

Despite the boost gained by Herr Späth's poll showing in the south-west, they are well aware that on their own they stand no chance of retaining power up north.

The CDU and FDP are unlikely, even in joint harness, to win enough seats to form a coalition government in Kiel after the Barschel affair, but a CDU-FDP coalition is the only configuration in which they could hope to do so. The Social Democrats need only to win a few percentage points more, as in Baden-Württemberg, to take over power in Schleswig-Holstein.

Apart from the Baden-Württemberg boost to the CDU's self-esteem, the Christian Democrats enter the run-up to the Schleswig-Holstein elections in virtually as poor a position as beforehand.

In Bonn Helmut Kohl cannot savour Lothar Späth's Baden-Württemberg victory to the full because it was partly due to Herr Späth drawing a distinction between his *Land* policies and those of the Federal government.

The Chancellor cannot welcome Herr Späth's successful campaign policy of *highlighting local successes and criticising the Federal government.*

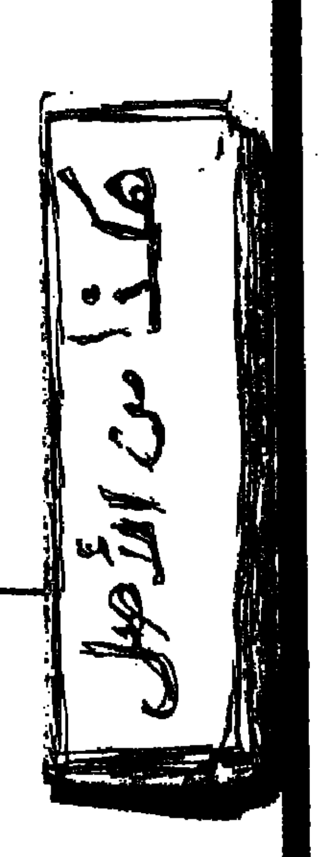
What if other CDU Premiers were to follow this example?

Herr Kohl has had to accept the fact that the CDU's victory in Baden-Württemberg has been ascribed solely to Lothar Späth.

He can afford to do so inasmuch as a CDU defeat in Baden-Württemberg would have been laid at his door and not at Herr Späth's.

Bodo Schulte

(Nordwest Zeitung, Oldenburg, 22 March 1988)



■ DEVELOPMENT AID

Bonn's seventh development policy report presented

Süddeutsche Zeitung

Economic Cooperation Minister Hans Klein (CSU) says Bonn's seventh development policy report reviews the most critical phase of international development cooperation yet.

It outlines development policy activities during the years 1985, 1986, and, to a certain extent, the first half of 1987.

He told the press in Bonn that more and more developing countries demonstrated their willingness to make courageous and painful structural adjustments during this period.

The report shows that the net transfer payments of industrialised countries as a whole declined during the review period. The indebtedness of developing countries continued to increase and their share of world trade decreased.

The report lists the objective obstacles to development, including some scathing criticism of the protectionism practised by industrialised countries.

Economic development in the majority of developing countries, says the report, has suffered a setback in the wake of the slump in raw materials prices.

There has been a marked decline in the willingness of industrialised countries to invest in the Third World or trade protectionism.

Some countries, however, such as South Korea, Hong Kong, Taiwan and Singapore, had experienced the kind of economic upswing within the space of just one generation which took Western industrialised countries between 100 and 200 years to achieve.

These countries continued their pronounced economic growth during the review period.

According to the government report, more than 500 million people are threatened by famine in the Third World despite numerous successful attempts to boost agricultural production.

The report lists the following reasons for this situation in developing countries: misguided agricultural policies, the lack of means of production due to insufficient foreign exchange, a population growth which outstrips the production growth rate, and the widespread lack of purchasing power.

The risks emanating from the agricultural markets of industrialised countries are also described in the report.

They are the channelling of surpluses into inappropriate food supplies and subsidised agricultural exports, which force traditional foodstuffs in developing countries off the market and disrupt market mechanisms.

This and protectionist market regulations in industrialised countries impair the export opportunities of developing countries with efficient agricultural structures.

The external debt of developing countries at the end of 1986 exceeded the thousand billion dollar mark. The debt servicing burden soared to around $140bn.

In many countries roughly half of the export revenue was needed to meet debt servicing commitments despite numerous debt rescheduling operations.

Key areas of cooperation between the Bonn government and Third World countries during the period under review were food security and rural development, environmental protection, the improvement of the energy supply, and education and vocational training.

Rural development projects and programmes accounted for just under 40 per cent of government commitments in the field of bilateral financial and technical cooperation in 1986.

The corresponding figure in the case of African countries south of the Sahara was 58 per cent.

It would be a serious misappraisal, says the report, to classify the poor, primarily smallholders, tenant farmers, the landless, street traders, small craftsmen, workers and casual labourers, as a fringe group.

In many developing countries they represent over fifty per cent, in some regions and urban districts even ninety per cent, of the population.

Most of these poor people, and in many cases the more productive, are women.

Their survival in the face of hostile conditions proves that they have a remarkable degree of creativity possess qualities needed to "help themselves."

In many instances, however, the situation deteriorates substantially when people leave their traditional environment.

The consequences of urbanisation reveal the almost automatic process of pauperisation which then follows.

Developments in Africa, Asia and Latin America show that this trend can be reversed if the poor are organised with the objective of improving their ability to shape their own lives independently within existing structures.

The Bonn government feels that the current task of the world economy is to create the preconditions for a sustained process of inflation-free growth.

Industrialised countries, it stresses, must make special efforts to stimulate expansionary forces via economic policy coordination, which includes reducing protectionism and subsidies.

In certain cases they should relieve the debt servicing burden and provide more of the capital which is urgently required.

Developing countries for their part should improve the general economic setting via adjustment measures in order to step up investments and exports, absorb more foreign private capital, and improve the prerequisites for the repatriation of rogue capital.

This, the report emphasises, would also improve the economic and social effectiveness of development aid.

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, Munich, 17 March 1988)

Continued from page 4

Süssmuth, Heiner Geissler and Norbert Blüm, can cause irritation.

Conversely, the CDU would run a risk of much greater damage if it were to about-turn and pursue more conservative policies.

Just as the SPD has frayed at the edge on its left wing, losing support to the Greens, so the CDU has constant problems on its right wing.

But it cannot afford to panic and seek to appease passing fancies or protest votes.

A better strategy would be to identify social and societal weak spots, to pay greater heed to hardship and anxiety, to carry greater conviction and to indulge in fewer empty phrases.

Sigmar Heilmann

(Mannheimer Morgen, 22 March 1988)



Hans Klein

(Photo: Werek)

Minister hints at further debt waivers

Bonn Economic Cooperation Minister Hans Klein (CSU) has hinted at the possibility of a further debt remission for poor developing countries.

Following the Cabinet discussion of the Federal government's seventh development policy report he described the growing indebtedness of the Third World as the most urgent problem facing development policy.

During a press conference the Minister announced that the Bonn Cabinet would be taking a closer look at further debt waivers during its initial consultations on the 1989 Federal budget in May.

Debts amounting to DM4bn have already been remitted, although Klein added a note of self-criticism to a corresponding announcement:

"This sounds better than it actually is."

Other countries, he pointed out, had done more during recent years in the way of converting loans into grants for poor countries.

There was no point, said the Minister, in increasing the mountain of debt by providing more loans for indebted countries.

He emphasised that his objective was to convert existing loans into grants in the case of the extremely poor countries (LDCs).

Lending terms for developing countries should be improved, said Klein, and described a figure of DM2.5bn as his idea.

A further objective of his development policy, Klein continued, was efforts within the European Community to reduce farm subsidies.

He expressed his conviction that there was already a tendency to back down from exporting subsidised farm products to the Third World.

The desired reduction of subsidies has triggered substantial opposition in the Federal Republic of Germany, especially within the Bavarian-based CSU.

The Seventh Report on the Development Policy of the Federal Government, a document 368 pages long, was given Cabinet approval on 16 March.

Klein emphasised that most of the review period relates to years in which his ministerial predecessors, Jürgen Warnke (CSU) and Rainer Offergeld (SPD), were in office.

Horst Schreitter-Schwarzenfeld

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 17 March 1988)

Partnership with Third World based on trade not aid

Bremer Nachrichten

There can be no doubt about it: the man at the head of the Bonn Economic Cooperation Ministry is breaking new ground.

Hans Klein has been in office for just one year and no-one now talks about employment-effective development aid, which served as a guiding principle for his predecessor in office, Jürgen Warnke.

Herr Klein's line of argument is correct. Capital and technical aid by the Bonn government can have a positive effect on employment.

But to make employment effectiveness a precondition for the granting of aid to the Third World is not in keeping with modern times.

The poorest of the poor countries have been unable to repay their debts for many years.

The Bonn government has drawn the reasonable and inevitable conclusion from this fact and decided to scrap its previous policy.

Instead, it plans to give the most underdeveloped countries more grants in future for projects which are unable anyway to provide the profits needed to repay loans, for example, school and hospital projects.

The development aid budget needn't be topped up to effect his policy change.

Taxpayers, therefore, have no cause for concern. Financially, everything stays as it was,

The loans already provided have not been paid back anyway.

Via its new policy in this field the Bonn government falls in line with many other industrialised countries, which during the past have regarded grants for meaningful projects as better than inviting the poorer countries to incur even more debts which they cannot pay back.

A number of Asian countries show that it is wrong to claim that development aid achieves nothing. The little dragons, four erstwhile threshold countries in the Far East, pose a serious challenge to the industrialised West.

Aid has helped turn many countries into partners rather than recipient countries. Their motto today is: trade not aid.

Karl Hugo Pruys

(Bremer Nachrichten, 17 March 1988)

■ EAST-WEST TIES

Moscow shows increasing interest in Bonn as key to Europe and the West

Helmut Kohl is to visit Moscow this autumn, Mikhail Gorbachov to visit Bonn next spring: deadlines testifying to growing Soviet interest in the Federal Republic of Germany as a key to Europe and to the Western alliance.

But keen though Soviet interest may be, there is still no sign of a master plan for the much-vaunted house East and West are said to share in Europe.

All that is so far apparent are structural features from which inferences may be drawn as to an architectural objective. Three can be defined in greater detail:

- The Kremlin is working on the status quo of a divided Europe.
- Moscow is strongly opposed to the modernisation of nuclear weapons stationed in the Federal Republic in the wake of the INF Treaty.
- It sees the Federal Republic as a suitable donor in connection with its proposed domestic reforms.

The third feature is easiest to describe. It forms part of all the rose-tinted comments about a "new chapter" in German-Soviet relations.

Mr Gorbachov is keen to find a way back to the credit lines that applied in the days of Mr Brezhnev.

He feels it to be self-evident, as does the outside world, that the reforms he has heralded would remain empty phrases without Western assistance in



the form of loans and technological know-how.

As empty phrases they might even threaten the domestic cohesion and survival of the Soviet Union.

The Kremlin is well aware that new credit lines will be out of the question unless there is a general improvement in the international atmosphere, a Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan and some degree of Soviet restraint in Africa, Asia and Central America.

All Mr Gorbachov's travels and speeches, including his visit to Yugoslavia, must be seen in this context. His foreign policy since 1985 has been based on the common denominator of a quest for fresh creditworthiness.

Disarmament policy has proved the nucleus of successful diplomacy that has deeply impressed the West.

The Soviet interest in disarmament is adequately explained in terms of the desire to redirect to the underdeveloped civil manufacturing sector part of Moscow's intolerably high military spending, which accounts for 16 per cent of the Soviet GNP.

This target may best be achieved in the framework of a "peaceful environment," but that need not be the overriding Soviet consideration.

If experience over the past 40 years is any guide, Mr Gorbachov will be keen to combine an improvement in the Soviet system's innovation capability and the maintenance in full of the Soviet Union's world power status in all sectors and all areas, especially in Europe.

That is the basis of the overall compromise that at present holds together the Soviet politbureau with its divergent tendencies in view of dangerous trends.

In other words, the price Mr Gorbachov must pay for domestic reforms is *to be in "foreign currency" to pacify his* home Opposition.

Above all, he must succeed in his bids to limit the military innovation potential of the Western alliance, curbing it by negotiations, advances and pressure where Europe in general, and the Federal Republic in particular, is concerned.

The INF Treaty is a psycho-diplomatic starting point. During his visit to Bonn in January Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze expressly warned the Federal government not to agree to the modernisation of nuclear weapons.

The Bonn government, especially Foreign Minister Genscher, was impressed. So, of course, was the Opposition, which favours a "third zero solution."

Some Christian Democrats, forming a kind of Grand Coalition with the Social Democrats, also object to missile modernisation on national grounds.

They see a replacement for the short-range Lance missile, due to be phased out in 1995, as a kind of self-deterrent, limiting the nuclear risk to the two German states.

The Brussels Nato summit did not even bring about verbal clarification on this point.

The North Atlantic pact thus seems incapable of modernisation, being split into a go-ahead Anglo-Saxon and a go-slow Franco-German camp.

Consequences of the Soviet damper on innovation in Bonn are also apparent in policy on Germany.

Here too a number of Christian Democrats, such as CDU general secretary Heiner Geissler and his "discussion draft" on European and German policy, see eye to eye with the Opposition in avoiding any active or operative policy aimed at eliminating the division of Germany.

Herr Geissler's stated views on this point fall even further back than previously held positions.

His line of argument is, basically, that the German Question may be open but cannot be solved at present and its aim can only be accomplished with the "consent" of Germany's eastern and western neighbours.

Mention is no longer made of reunification. The European option is given priority over the German option. A special, or separate, German policy is ruled out.

Moscow's European policy concept is not yet clear in outline but it is definitely on the move. To fail to project one's desire for innovation on to it would be to leave the initiative entirely to the other side.

Herbert Kremp

(Die Welt, Bonn, 20 March 1988)

Soviet offer of cut-price satellite launches

Moscow is offering Western countries satellite launching facilities for peaceful purposes from its space centre in Baikonur, Kazakhstan, at what are evidently dumping rates.

Special mention of this facility was made to Deutsche Bank board chairman F. Wilhelm Christians in three-hour talks with Soviet Premier Nikolai Ryshkov.

Herr Christians says he was handed a list of prices that was pages long.

Ranging from 24m to 30m roubles per satellite launch, they are well below the cost price of sending the European launcher rocket Ariane into space.

Alexei Dunayev, head of the Soviet space agency, has even quoted a price of $30m. So the prices quoted for a Soviet satellite launch seem to vary between DM51m and DM84m.

India, which has just launched its first satellite from Baikonur, paid only a 7.5m-rouble (DM21m) share of the cost.

This bargain basement price is said to have been agreed in view of the long years of Indo-Soviet economic cooperation.

Herr Christians, who was allowed to visit the Baikonur space station, asked his Soviet hosts about price undercutting.

He was told that Soviet space rocket technology had worked since Sputnik days on the basis of long runs.

The Vostok carrier rocket has been launched over 1,000 times, with a 94-per-cent success rate, whereas Ariane has notched up a bare dozen launchings.

Herr Christians expects there to be a substantial market for space services in the 1990s.

There has been a waiting list since Nasa fell behind schedule after the Challenger catastrophe.

The Soviet Union is experienced in space technology and has shown itself able to keep to deadlines.

The possibility of a West German astronaut being sent into space on board a capsule launched from Baikonur could not, he felt, be ruled out.

Herr Christians, who also conferred with Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze, said the atmosphere in which talks were held was "sympathetic, frank, objective and to the point."

It was an atmosphere that would have been welcome sooner. Even though the Soviet Union had strictly limited the volume of trade and setting up joint ventures was, in his opinion, fraught with difficulties, Herr Christians felt it was worth biding one's time.

He had discussed individual projects, including atomic energy ventures, with Mr Ryshkov. The Soviet Premier had said that neither country could manage without nuclear power.

Soviet nuclear planners continued to be keen on the high-temperature reactor, with its outstanding safety record.

Two German firms, Brown, Boveri & Cie. and Kraftwerk Union, tendered bids for Soviet contracts a year ago. They are still pending.

Hans-Joachim Deckert

(Der Tagesspiegel, Berlin, 22 March 1988)

■ TELECOM

Trade delighted, computer kids thrilled with Hanover fair

Frankfurter Allgemeine

The mood could hardly be better and the signs are that the CeBIT computer fair will have exceeded all expectations, including the great expectations with which the trade went to Hanover in the first place.

At half-way mark the trade fair organisers, the trade associations and individual exhibitors were all highly satisfied with the brisk business they had been doing in the 13 trade fair halls.

In four days 250,000 visitors, over 20 per cent more than last time, had passed through the turnstiles.

This figure may not be the sole yardstick of success, but it is undeniably an important one.

Occasional criticism of the high proportion of computer kids among the paying public proves only that the critic has failed to appreciate one of the major CeBIT objectives. One aim of the fair is to interest kids in computer technology.

A constant complaint among exhibitors is that there simply aren't enough trained staff.

The trade association says there is a shortage of 6,000 informatics specialists, and the gap between supply and demand is likely to grow wider as universities fail to produce enough graduates.

Manufacturers have put in hard and impressive work of their own to interest young people and train promising youngsters, but their efforts alone are unlikely to suffice.

That is why there have been demands for concerted action on training computer staff to forestall any further discrepancy between supply and demand.

What computer manufacturers need are specialists. Without them the trade's growth potential cannot be used to the full.

The optimistic atmosphere at CeBIT is largely due to the encouraging economic outlook for the information and communication industries.

Last year was unexpectedly difficult and brought many great expectations down to earth with a vengeance, but the prevailing atmosphere is now one of renewed confidence.

Sales figures in recent months seem to show that the trade was merely "resting" last year and has returned to the fray. It is doing justice again to its reputation as a growth industry.

This resurgence in self-confidence is reflected in the statistics. The world market for information and communication technology is currently worth roughly DM500bn a year.

Over the next decade it is expected to treble in value and account for 40 per cent of the world market in electrical goods.

Software, it is generally agreed, will account for an above-average share in this growth. Software sales are already increasing at three times the overall growth rate for electrical and electronic goods.

Siemens board chairman Karlheinz Kaske feels this is a new quality of economic growth using fewer raw materials and involving less environmental pollution.

Integration of software and hardware is of utmost importance. Rationalisation and standardisation are slogans that have long been acknowledged in the software trade.

The Unix operating system, in use all over the world, might well be a step in the direction of greater compatibility and wider use of individual programs, this being the point at which users' criticism sets in.

Custom-built programs can, as a rule, only be used with the model for which they were designed.

Compatibility, another much-vaunted slogan, has remained wishful thinking.

A further problem is that the small businessman, in whom the trade is so keenly interested, is usually in no position to judge which operating system will best suit him.

A businessman who works a 12-hour day or longer simply hasn't the time to gain a clear idea of what the market has to offer.

A major topic discussed at Hanover this year was the opportunities presented by the imminent introduction of integrated digital services (ISDN, or integrated services digital network) by the Bundespost.

Later this year the Bundespost is to start installing the ISDN network all over Germany.

It will be a telecom network combining speech, text, data and pictures. Access to all services will be via a single telephone socket.

Posts and Telecom Minister Christian Schwarz-Schilling said at CeBIT that the Bundespost's target was to provide countrywide ISDN services by 1994.

For equipment manufacturers, who have already invested heavily in the digital future, this deadline stands for a new era from which they confidently expect further growth.

New generation

Setting up the network is not enough. Subscribers' equipment must also be able to intercommunicate. A new equipment generation will be needed.

As CeBIT began a debate on the Federal Republic of Germany as an industrial location was in full swing. The excitement has now calmed down.

There is no need to feel the end of the world is at hand, undeniably true though it may be that the competitive disadvantages faced by German information and communication industry manufacturers are a serious drawback.

The Federal government is well aware of the arguments the industry has advanced and will sooner or later have no choice but to present a package of improvements. Besides, the Federal Republic is not without advantages as a location.

Manufacturers will need to retain their presence in such an important market even once the single internal market is an established fact in the European Community.

Other factors in Germany's favour as an information and communication industry location are the high qualification of the labour market, with its effect on product quality, high productivity by international standards and a fairly good infrastructure.

Dominik Schmidt

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 21 March 1988)



This 4in-screen videophone, premiered in Europe at CeBIT, plugs into a standard telephone socket. (Photo: AP)

Crowd-pulling CeBIT featured nothing that was really new

Computers, in all shapes and sizes, are the stars of the show at the CeBIT Fair in Hanover. Yet a young man attracts the attention of a crowd of people in a matter of seconds.

Wearing a black dress-coat, he sets up a small table on a computer manufacturer's stand and flips a pack of playing cards from hand to hand.

In next to no time he is surrounded by people keen to see what he is up to. Is it a new advertising gimmick? Is he working for a particularly astute exhibitor?

No, he isn't. He is simply performing a few card tricks. Nothing new, all old faithfuls — and fascinatingly human.

After a quarter of an hour the sorcerer's apprentice folds up his table and disappears in the vast expanses of Hall 1, where CeBIT, the computer fair, was decoupled from the main Hanover Fair in 1986.

Hall 1 is still where CeBIT can best be seen in full splendour. Nearly all leading manufacturers, such as IBM, Siemens, Nixdorf and Commodore, have their stands here.

They all present a sober, level-headed picture, each with stand space commensurate with its size and importance, stands stacked with computers in all shapes and sizes, configurations and prices.

Glossy brochures, test programs in colour and arrays of small cabins are pitted against a drawback that has long bedevilled computer manufacturers.

Their problem is that computers are hard to sell by means of optical presentation. The only way you can really make a sale is by means of thorough, detailed consultation.

Yet few of the 300,000 visitors stop for more than a moment. They all roam the DeBIT stands in a quest for the latest trends. Critics say the emphasis is on quantity, not quality.

Several leading manufacturers — Digital Research, for instance, — no longer exhibit at Hanover. They say fewer and fewer key men — industrial decision-makers — are seen at the fair.

What, then, does Europe's largest computer fair have to offer? The number of visitors may be impressive, but the show cannot be said to have been overwhelmingly spectacular.

Epson exhibited a prototype 48-pin printer. NEC made do with updated versions of its successful range. Acer, formerly Multitech, presented the first IBM PS/2 clone.

But visitors weren't shown the cloned kernel of the new microchannel systems architecture.

Commodore, who do bumper business in home computers and their Amiga range, can hardly keep the kids at bay.

Yet apart from an updated version of the old standby, the C 64, Commodore has nothing new to show for itself. And the same could be said of many others.

Schneider has two new micros of its own on show, while barely a stone's throw away Amstrad, the British company with which Schneider used to collaborate, present its new models.

Schneider and Amstrad may now have parted company, but that alone — and, indeed, this year's CeBIT as a whole — is not going to floor the computer trade, accustomed to success as it is.

One exhibitor had a new LCD monitor, another an even faster lightweight portable — CeBIT this year featured progress in detail: bit by bit.

The public, mainly male and fashionably dressed for spring, seemed unperturbed. They had the choice of 2,674 exhibitors with stands in 13 halls.

Yet visitors who might have hoped to get a clearer grasp of the computer phenomenon and feel less apprehensive about the new technology were disappointed. Computerspeak remains an insider's jargon.

You need to have at least a clear idea of the basics. Otherwise you may well find yourself homeward-bound with a plastic bag full of glossy brochures but none the wiser.

The uninitiated are bound to wonder what tabular calculation, a relational data bank or terminal emulation are. What is a plasma screen, a transputer or a VAX station? And, above all, what use are they all?.

A number of exhibitors and institutions try to shed light on the mysterious microchip at the computer camp. It is a roaring success with the computer kids.

They work their way through the crowd to the stands where the public are shown what a computer can do in practice.

"Problem solutions" are on show everywhere. They range from "postpro

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■ TAXATION

Stoltenberg's fiscal fling scales its first hurdle

The first round of the political bout over the 1990 tax reform package is over. The Cabinet draft has been submitted.

Many wounds were inflicted in fierce verbal clashes preceding the decision. They involved the lobbies and Premiers Strauss and Späth, Chancellor Kohl, the Churches and many others.

But Finance Minister Stoltenberg succeeded in preventing fundamental amendments of the package.

It continues to consist mainly of a simpler income tax scale with higher basic and children's allowances and lower initial and peak rates, the combination ensuring a steady increase in the aggregate rate.

The Social Democrats criticise the proposed new scale, saying higher income-earners benefit more than those who earn low incomes.

That, they argue, is unfair. But is the progression of the existing rate fair? Even the new scale will leave the income tax rate increasing disproportionately as incomes rise.

What matters is less the peak rate than the opportunities higher income-earners have of avoiding it. These loopholes are to be closed, and that is surely the right approach, even though it may not always be a straight line.

It runs in wavy lines round the thorny cliffs of different interests, as shown by the provision for a withholding tax said to be aimed at forcing taxpayers to pay tax on unearned income they are supposed to declare in any case.

Yet in view of the possible influence of a withholding tax on the capital market, higher interest rates and a transfer of cash to foreign and non-resident accounts, withholding tax is to be charged at a low rate, 10 per cent, on interest paid on fixed-interest bonds etc.

The withholding tax as proposed is thus a compromise. Churches and charities were justifiably exempted as one of the first changes, but the banks rightly failed in their bid to have the tax shelved entirely.

Interest payments and unearned income are growing so fast that the Finance Minister is duty bound to ensure that tax is paid on them.

The withholding tax may not be wholly fair, but it is a pragmatic attempt to limit deliberate tax evasion.

Compromises are also proposed on wealth accumulation. Save as you earn schemes are not to be limited to company shares and building society accounts.

Conventional savings plans and life insurance policies seem likely to be retained as options but will no longer qualify for bonuses.

Interests of small businessmen have also been successfully defended, despite a number of sacrifices. Strange compromises seem to have been struck in the process.

Premier Strauss of Bavaria appears to have made his approval of save as you earn plans extending to small employers subject to the scrapping of oil duties on kerosene for private pilots.

Premier Späth of Baden-Württemberg failed in his bid to ensure a less uncompromising arrangement with regard to discounts on new cars for carmakers' staff.

He now hopes to achieve this and other objectives via the Bundesrat, or Upper House, of the Bonn Bundestag.

The tax reform package seems sure to be at the receiving end of horse-trading in the Bundesrat, but it is unlikely to be thrown out entirely.

A striking point is no-one in the Bonn coalition refers any longer to the argument that the reform package will on average case by DM1,000 the annual direct tax burden per man, woman and child.

A number of income-earners who stand to forfeit several existing privileges may well find themselves worse off than beforehand.

All employed people stand to pay more from the outset by being taxed proportionately — month by month — on a presumed full salary paid as a Christmas bonus, usually in November.

Provisions of this kind markedly reduce any pleasure we may feel at the prospect of the tax reform package as now outlined, but they fail to make it superfluous.

A sliding scale of income tax has to be revised periodically to ensure that as earnings increase higher absolute rates of tax are not automatically imposed.

Besides, the state ought not to raise more in taxes than the bare minimum it needs to perform its obligations. It must not, however, forgo so much revenue that it has to borrow more and more money to make ends meet.

An increase in the public sector borrowing requirement sows the seeds of higher taxes.

Finance Minister Stoltenberg has yet to prove that his proposals strike a balance between tax relief and new fiscal burdens. He has long had to abandon his initial objective of reducing both taxes and the public sector borrowing requirement.

Wolfgang Koch

(Stuttgarter Zeitung, 23 March 1988)

Tax reform package in brief

Finance Minister Gerhard Stoltenberg's *500-page 1990 tax reform* package has been approved by the Bonn Cabinet.

It includes DM20.8bn in tax relief for individual and corporate taxpayers. That exceeds the DM20bn target originally envisaged.

A three-year transitional arrangement will apply on taxation of bonuses paid for working night shifts.

Save as you earn plans will continue to include conventional savings plans and life insurance policies, but these will no longer qualify for low-income bonuses.

Small and medium-sized firms have qualified for up to DM3,000 in income or corporation tax relief on the employer's contribution toward save as you earn schemes.

This relief is now to be scrapped, netting a further DM250m in tax revenue.

The withholding tax on unearned incomes *is to be waived for charities*, political parties and isimilar organisations.

The main feature of tax cuts totalling DM40bn is a reduction in the sliding scale of income tax that will cost DM20.7bn and is intended to be permanent. Special allowances will apply to families with children. Children's allowance will be increased by DM558 to DM3,042 per child per year, costing a further DM2bn in tax relief.

An DM1,800 allowance for looking after a person in need of constant domestic help and attention is to be introduced.

The corresponding allowances or upper limits of tax relief for employing domestic help in such circumstances or paying for a member of the family to live in an old people's home is also to be increased to DM1,800 per annum.

dpa

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, Cologne, 19 March 1988)

CeBIT Hanover

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cessors for individual adaptation to your machine control" to an "open sesame for data banks."

One exhibit deals with the "link-up between different data stations," another with "PC communications" and a third and fourth with computer-aided design (CAD) and computer-integrated manufacturing (CIM).

At the next stand a pretty girl is all smiles as she demonstrates the latest generation of smart telephones.

But, sad to say, the Bundespost has not yet given them the go-ahead. Their use is still prohibited in Germany.

Visitors who watched one of the many demonstrations will not have been much the wiser. The man at the terminal went through his word processing routine heedless of an audience that came and went.

What the public see is a king-sized screen, and as they shuffle past a loudspeaker voice temporarily drowns the background noise as it explains:

"Key in a keyword and WD will retrieve the text stored under this heading and display it on the screen. This is a highlight of the program."

And so on, in computerspeak. Blocks are defined, copied and redirected. Address lists are compiled and assigned to letters printed in either NLQ or draft.

For those who feel a little out of their depth it is, perhaps, reassuring to learn that at least the computer salesman speaks German. The program he sells doesn't; it only speaks English — of a kind.

Visitors who have trained on computers and not simply capitulated to the jargon of the digital age will have been keen to keep abreast of developments.

That was easier said than done. Many stand staff knew even less than they did. You needed only to ask what interface a model had. Some salesman were at a loss to answer.

Yet the interface, a plug and socket arrangement for the leads between, say, the computer and the printer, is absolutely crucial.

Sales staff can't be taught the finer points of digital progress overnight.

People with specific queries they hoped staff at a particular stand would be able to answer were regularly disappointed and went home to a computer that continued to defy all attempts to persuade it to do what it was told.

Michael Rupprecht

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, Cologne, 22 March 1988)

■ STOCK MARKET

Corporate raiders reputed to have set sights on German take-over market



Many believed that the stock market crash of 19 October last year on Wall Street, Black Monday, would put an end to take-overs.

Take-overs by corporate raiders, as people such as T. Boone Pickens, Asher Edelman and Sir James Goldsmith are known in stock exchange jargon, lost a lot of money when the market tumbled so dramatically.

The cash reserves of their firms, with which they are able to negotiate credits to finance take-overs, suffered badly in the crash.

The fact is, however, that after a breather, wheeling and dealing in international take-overs is as lively as ever. Only the cast has changed.

It is not so often now a person who is operating in the take-over bid but firms that want to incorporate other companies into their organisation.

Hoffmann-La Roche tried to take over the American Sterling pharmaceuticals company, which eventually fell into the arms of Eastman Kodak.

British Petroleum has taken over Britoil and in Belgium Carlo de Benedetti, with a majority holding in Olivetti, has as an Italian had to fight off Belgian resistance to his bid for Société Generale.

Canada's Seagram organisation beat off the British Grand Metropolitan Group in its bid to take over the cognac giant Martell.

The reason for these take-overs is obvious. Business executives have realised that they can buy into other companies relatively cheaply, that interesting candidates for take-over can be bought up at acceptable prices.

Take-over battles, which have pushed up share prices on other stock markets, have not taken place in the Federal Republic.

The sale of the Reemtsma majority holding in Henninger to EKU, the disposal of Hannen to Tuborg, the participation of the French glass manufacturers Saint-Gobain in Oberland Glas have added a somewhat misleading dash of colour.

The change of ownership in Henninger-Bräu, Frankfurt, led to a sharp increase in the stock market quotation of Henninger shares and brewery stocks generally.

Breweries are a special case. For years this sector has been in decline. There are too many breweries. No other country has so many breweries as the Federal Republic.

In addition the European Community decision on West German beer purity regulations has started off speculation about take-overs from abroad.

It is easier for foreign companies to get a foot in the Federal Republic beer market by acquiring a German company than by setting up their own production facilities and marketing operations.

Breweries have maintained their value better than most other sectors despite poor profits performance since the crash.

The take-over situation in the Federal Republic does not give a complete picture of the stock market.

The Bank in Liechtenstein has recently reported that there were 802 notifications to the Monopolies Commission of company purchases last year, purchases that had to be notified to the Commission. This compares with 709 notifications in record year 1986.

Consultancy firm Wupper & Partner in Hamburg estimates that the actual figure was over 2,000 last year as compared with 1,700 in 1986.

These mergers take place for the most part outside stock market operations.

The trend to take-overs could become more marked over the next few years. Tax reform planned for 1990 will mean that profits earned from the disposal of a company will be taxed at a graded, but higher rate, instead of the minimum rate applicable at the present. This could result in an increase in take-over bids up to 1990.

There is interest and ready cash to go with it among companies. The liquidity position of major companies has improved considerably over the past few years so they have plenty of cash available to go on the warpath.

The Bank in Liechtenstein is of the view that the German stock market will benefit in the weeks and months ahead from take-overs.

The rise in blue chip shares can mean that minor shares that are candidates for take-over bids, could become interesting for corporate raiders.

There is also bound to be increased interest from investors abroad. When the Single Internal Market comes into effect in 1992 it will be all the more important for non-EC countries to have a footing in a European Community country.

This applies not so much to the Americans, who established themselves in the Federal Republic well up to the mid-1970s when the deutschemark was considerably undervalued, but much more to the Japanese.

Düsseldorf is home to more Japanese and Japanese companies than any other city in Europe.

The tendency to settle there, where other Japanese are already firmly established, shows that they prefer the Federal Republic as their jumping-off place for investment.

In addition they do not have to fear an expensive deutschemark. The yen has increased more markedly against the dollar than against the deutschemark.

Yet there is little evidence of increased take-over bids by the Japanese. The cheap dollar is attracting Japanese investors to the USA and in fact is forcing Japanese exporters involved in American markets to produce in the USA so as to remain competitive.

The different structure of the German stock market must be taken into consideration when speculating about take-overs. According to a recent estimate from the Commerzbank approximately half the shares quoted on German stock markets are held by major shareholders.

This could lead to large shareholdings changing hands but is unlikely to lead to total take-over bids of all shares

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German futures and options market to be launched

A futures and options market project costing DM60m is scheduled to start up in 1989 and intended to make the Federal Republic more attractive as a financial centre.

As soon as the Bonn government had approved and the Bonn Finance and Justice Ministries had looked at the proposal, stock market planners got down to work.

For ages the three exchanges in Chicago and brokers in New York, Sydney, Singapore, Amsterdam, London and Paris have been handling 1.5 million deals all over the world, 24 hours a day every day.

Even the Swiss, very conservative in financial matters, have already started up their futures market.

The Federal Republic, with record surpluses and of considerable importance in international trading, just bobs up and down with only 1,000 options deals per day.

Bankers and stock brokers in the Federal Republic fear that German investors will desert indigenous financial centres for ever. They are pressing for the establishment of a futures market as swiftly as possible.

The new area of financial operations that finance experts in this country want to break into is mainly concerned with giving investors protection.

Currency rates and stock quotations go up and down to increasing degrees. Previously this was all very leisurely.

Now movements up or down of a tenth of a percentage point worldwide on interest rates can happen so swiftly that risks are great. Protection is needed against this.

Options give the right to purchase or sell a definite volume of stocks and shares at an agreed price at any time during an agreed period.

They allow investment managers handling insurance and pension funds, as well as private investors, to protect their positions against losses due to fluctuations in currency exchange rates, interest rates and price movements on the stock exchange.

The same is true for the futures market. This market, unlike the options market, offers the right (but not the obligation) to buy or sell a share at a set price within a set period.

Futures contracts commit a dealer to buy or sell securities for an agreed price at a future date.

Apart from the chance to plan and finance with less risk, speculators dabble on the futures markert.

They speculate on market developments and hope to make a profit by so doing. They make sure they have a purchaser for every sale in the forward exchange.

Bankers in their capacity as brokers also earn a commission by every contract in futures markets.

Simply put, the government regards the futures market as a gamble in which the loser can get out of the contract without any legal consequences.

Provisions of the Stock Exchange Act that made the banks insist on substantial downpayments by futures clients scared off foreign stock brokers who can operate elsewhere more freely selling options on German equity. The necessary legislation should be introduced before the summer break. Untiring lobbying of the political parties seems likely to keep parliamentary objections to a minimum.

The major banks and leading financial institutions as well as savings and cooperative banks are now putting the finishing touches to the structure of the planned futures market.

It all depends on money, DM60m in fact to finance the project, and on the fees that should be charged for each futures deal. This is a delicate matter.

If the commissions charged are higher than at other financial centres then customers will stay away.

The five banks of the Stock Exchange Commission are bringing pressure to bear, along with the financial backers already won for the project, the Bayerische Vereinsbank, Bayerische Hypotheken- und Wechselbank and the Vereins- und Westbank, concerning the participation of other banks.

A company (GmbH) is to be formed to operate the futures market. Shareholders and the extent of their holding will be dependent on how they contribute to pre-financing.

Anyone who wants to participate in the organisation and administration of the futures market will have to pay up first.

The stubborn jealousy displayed by the seven regional stock exchanges against the Federal Republic's most important exchange, in Frankfurt, has already been brushed side.

The futures market has no settled location. It can be reached from every corner of the Federal Republic by computer.

The computer programme has been purchased from the Swiss Options and Financial Futures Exchange (Soffex). This was the quickest and simplest way of establishing a futures market in the Federal Republic, but it did not leave much room for manoeuvre in price negotiations.

Efforts will be made to build up the trade in cooperation with Swiss colleagues. That should save some money.

What no-one can foretell is how much business will actually be done once the market is established at the end of next year.

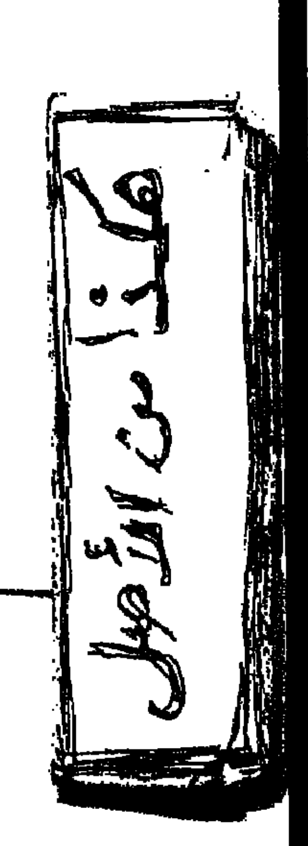
The number of shares that will be authorised for trading on the options market is to be more than halved to 20 at the most, largely because there has been little or no trading in the remainder.

Unit trusts, insurance and commercial companies see a bright future in the futures market, but they are vague as to just how actively they will participate in it.

A German futures market of international calibre, set up at considerable expense but doing no major business, would be fatal.

Andreas Richter

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, Cologne, 25 February 1988)



■ AEROSPACE

Esa gives go-ahead for joint space venture with USA

Europe, Japan and Canada are to share in the construction and maintenance of a permanently manned American civilian space station. The contracts have been ratified by the European Space Agency's Council of Ministers. The German government intends to agree to the construction of an independent European part of the Columbus space station.

The European Space Agency (Esa) has agreed with Nasa, the US National Aeronautics and Space Administration, to build the first international space station.

It is to be launched in the 1990s, and will be made up of three laboratories, constructed separately by the United States, Japan, Canada and Europe.

The European contribution consists of an unmanned laboratory orbiting independently of the main station, and an observation platform.

This is good news for the five trainee astronauts at the DFVLR Aerospace Research Establishment in Porz, Cologne. They can now look forward to going into space and accurately work out when they will lift off.

The first item on the German agenda is a second Spacelab mission under German management planned for autumn 1991. The agency will send up two astronauts at most. After that, the Germans will devote their energy to the European contribution to the American Columbus space station.

Columbus will have a permanent crew of probably eight. One will be European. And since the Federal Republic has a 38-per-cent share in Columbus, every third European in the station ought to be German.

The Research Ministry predicts that a German woman astronaut will be working in space before the end of the century.

Since two of the trainee astronauts are women — 32-year-old meteorologist Renate Brümmer and 27-year-old doctor Heike Walpot — this prediction will probably come true.

The acceptance of the agreement by Esa experts was followed by the approval of its Council of Ministers.

The agreement could only become effective once all 13 Esa member-countries, including those not participating in the Columbus project, agreed to it. Their agreement gave Columbus the go-ahead.

The German Cabinet will give its approval in May. With this gesture the government will be allocating DM3bn for Columbus between now and the end of the century.

Before the meeting of Esa Ministers, Reinhard Loosch, the agency's chief negotiator said: "We can be satisfied with the results of negotiations with the Americans."

Esa did not, he added, "get everything we were after, but we got our way on essentials." Research Minister Heinz Riesenhuber agreed with this view. Even the Foreign Ministry agreed to the treaty draft.

Germany's five trainee astronauts pose for the photographer in Cologne (Photo: Sven Simon)

It was by no means a sure thing that the Americans and Europeans would reach agreement with each other. The negotiations could very easily have been a flop.

Disputes might well have arisen over whether the space station would be used for civil or military purposes — such as Star Wars research.

Admittedly there was never any doubt that the Americans intended to build their space station at all costs with or without European participation.

Like President Kennedy before him, who decided to put an American on the Moon by a definite date, President Reagan gave the space station the go-ahead in January 1984.

Mr Reagan's decision set the ball rolling. Admittedly he invited friendly nations to participate, but he did not make participation a precondition for inclusion in the project.

Negotiations between Europeans and Americans started up in autumn 1985. The basis for negotiations was that the Americans would build the most important parts of the station: the manned space station base. A manned American research lab module would then dock onto the base.

Columbus will mainly consist of a laboratory which for the most part will be based on German and Italian research.

This laboratory, just as much as the American reseach installation, will be connected to the main station.

The details of the agreement state that the space station is a civilian project and is to be used for peaceful purposes in keeping with international law.

Loosch and his fellow negotiators are well aware that the wording of the agreement is by no means the last word on the subject.

Lawyers know there is no generally accepted definition of what peaceful purposes are. At an early stage of negotiating, the Americans proposed a formulation, according to which "peaceful purposes" would exclude the development of offensive weapons.

But Esa members rejected this. The term "peaceful weapons" might then have sanctioned the development of defensive weapons.

On the other hand the Americans rejected a call by the neutral Esa members, Switzerland, Austria and Sweden, for a right of veto on all research projects.

This would have meant that every partner could stop any research if they were doubtful of its peaceful purposes.

They made a compromise. They would reach agreement on the nature of projects before they had started up. If any member had any doubts about the purpose of the research, then the partner in whose section the research was taking place, would have to decide whether research was for peaceful purposes or not.

Admittedly a nation which contradicts the opinion of the other members as to what is peaceful, has to justify this in public. In any case, the Europeans could show their displeasure at any American work on defensive missiles.

The agreement gives Esa a say in managing the whole station, responsibility for the building and servicing of Esa components, a certain amount of access to research results and guarantees on the use of the American Space Shuttle, which will initially supply the station.

The partners have regulated the costs of the project. The Americans will contribute $14bn. The Japanese will contribute $2.5bn, the Canadians $700m and the Europeans $4bn.

If everthing works out, that is. And if the Space Shuttle runs smoothly, then the German astronauts can assume that in 1994 Columbus will be put into space and constructed there.

The researchers intend to experiment a lot on zero gravity. The purpose of such research is to develop new materials and to improve the treatment of diseases.

The mission will be ideally located in space to make observations of earth and to take a closer look at the events in outer space.

The astronauts are expecting to run into lots of surprises. "We don't yet know exactly what can be done in a station like this," said the experts.

Here back on earth the Columbus project is weathering some squabbling. After the SPD parliamentary party recently spoke out against Columbus, Erich Riedl, CSU, the government's aerospace coordinator, said Dara — the new German space agency where the management of the space station will be — should not be located in North-Rhine Westphalia.

He said it would be better to have mission control in the Munich area. Prime Minister Johannes Rau of North-Rhine Westphalia will make a statement soon on the attitude of the SPD parliamentary party.

Nevertheless the SPD mayor of Bremen, Klaus Wedemeier, made a prior statement on the issue. He said Columbus and the planned Hermes space shuttle, were indispensable elements of a comprehensive European space programme.

His statement is not surprising. Messerschmitt-Bölkow-Blohm are one of the main Esa contractors and have a subsidiary, Erno, in Bremen.

Heinz Murmann

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, Cologne, 17 March 1988)

■ THE ARTS

Austrian writer Ilse Aichinger wins literary award

Austrian writer Ilse Aichinger has been awarded the 1988 Weilheim Prize for Literature. The jury, making the award for the first time, was made up of schoolboys and girls. They said that the reason for their decision was the fascination for the language the authoress used in her work, a language that had its effect on young people, even if the meaning was mysterious. In 'Rede an die Jugend' she called on her readers not to give up the hope of joy in an era that was recurringly plagued with anxiety, but not to allow this joy to corrupt. Ilse Aichinger was born in Vienna in 1921. After the 'Anschluss' her family was persecuted by the Nazis. Her most important novel is 'Die grössere Hoffnung' that describes the feelings of a young girl during the Nazi regime. It appeared in 1948. Last year her latest book appeared, entitled 'Kleist, Moos, Fasane.' She now lives in Frankfurt where she was interviewed by Verena Auffermann.

Anyone who wants to understand Ilse Aichinger must come to terms with the logic of contradiction. She makes comments such as: "To remain in one spot is to bid it farewell."

She has been living in Frankfurt for the past four years where, she says, there are too many banks and not enough coffee houses. Otherwise she does not have much to say about Frankfurt. She is probably too polite to say anything about the city.

The word "silence" envelops her. Because silence in an era of noise is an unreasonable demand she must explain to the unsuspecting what silence is in fact.

She said that as a schoolgirl she admired a quiet child. Now she knows why. "Silence covers the currency of words. Because words are needed faster all the time silence gets more and more vital," she said.

Anyone who can read her book, which appeared in the autumn of 1987, *Kleist, Moos, Fasane*, and her work between 1950 and 1985, has enough to read in one sentence for a day. One will commit her sentences from the book to memory.

Her statements take up little of her time, because she is timeless. That is why they are made for permanence. Who is aware, like she is herself, that one can only experience what one already knows?

What could one possibly ask such a writer? Is not every interference an indiscretion?

She laughs as only a person can laugh who has suffered the difficult and easy times of a young girl. Then one is brave. One is inquisitive in any event, which is why she writes so little and feels herself to be a clown who gambles with truth.

She smokes and from behind a cloud of cigarette smoke she spoke of the magic hat behind which she protects herself and says that not-writing is just as much work as writing.

Ilse Aichinger describes writing as "the harvest." She harvests with great care and considerable economy.

Since 1948 she has published a novel, short stories, a play for radio, a volume of poetry and some essays. Not a word is wasted.

In the short pieces entitled *Kleist, Moos, Fasane* there is under the date 1972 just this single statement: "Acquire indifference."

Ilse Aichinger has not allowed herself to dream that the "quiet book" would get so much attention. Her books have all been published by Fischer Verlag and have been designed by Otl Aicher.

Was she pleased to get placed on South West Radio's bestseller list, an important review for any writer?

She said she was indeed. Then one of her statements came to mind. What does this Aichingber sentence mean: "The ambition not to be ambitious is a considerable ambition."

Anyone who has no time for unreasonable demands should not talk to Ilse Aichinger.

You can almost hear her thinking before she answers in her slight Viennese accent which she has smoothed out to a considerable extent.

Behind ambition there is meanness. It is not far from that to envy. Envy is an agony. Have you never been envious?

What does she think of books by young writers? She knows no names and apologises a little. She said that she read so slowly and then she liked reading Kleist so much.

Then because she obviously felt that was not quite what she should have said she conceded that some authors were notable.

She was involved in other things. The threat, crazy affluence and the glorification given to youth.

She said: "That is not good for young people to be glorified, because they forget that it is a transitory condition. They begin to think of themselves as something special."

She regards the general threat under which we live as more sinister than it used to be as the danger becomes clearer.

She is sorry for young people, the discrepancy between champagne and nuclear reactors. A roof over one's head and no ground beneath one's feet. In her view that is what youth needed.

We spoke of what would have been a good expression, about civil courage. Young people must find it anew so that it can become theirs.

She was baptised a Catholic but is half-Jewish and was 17 when the Germans occupied Austria in 1938, and when her mother, a doctor, was refused permission to emigrate to Britain.

She was 21 when her grandmother was carried off.

She said: "We lived just a few houses away from the Gestapo. I can't bear watching marching. I can't bear hearing singing, and marching in step leaves me cold."

Before we speak about anxiety let us talk about guilt. She thinks that it is too much for the Germans to assume responsibility for all war crimes themselves.

She asked: "How many Jews did America, Britain, France, Switzerland or Russia take in? Who knew a millionaire who was prepared to stand guarantee for the fare to emigrate to America?"

Ilse Aichinger seldom quotes Ilse Aichinger. She knows the sentences by heart, such as the implication that anxiety is the stuff of courage.

Put in another way typical of her manner of expression: "If one does not have anxiety one is not courageous," or, an important remark from her: "Have enough anxiety."

She said that when once everyone had had enough anxiety everything would be spared. Hitler had no anxiety. He was a so-called brave man.

She published her one and only novel in 1948, *Die grössere Hoffnung*. It is criss-crossed with the horrors of war.

Politely and calmly, just as others in a good mood talk about good weather, she said: "I think one has to experience a shot in the stomach."



Ilse Aichinger
(Photo: Brigitte Friedrich)

Few in Frankfurt know that a real writer, no zealot, a realist who can find no splendid images for the contradictions of this world, lives in the city.

In her novel a boat carrying Jewish children, who have been saved, sails over the sea. She wrote: "A shark comforted them in the only way a shark can."

In 1985 she was awarded the Marie Luise Kaschnitz Prize. Marie Luise Kaschnitz was a German poetess and short-story writer born in 1901. Ilse Aichinger is now at home in the city where Marie Luise Kaschnitz was at home.

Ilse Aichinger was married to the writer Günter Eich. She said: "The dead and the old are the walls that protect us."

What is she working on at the moment? A novel? No, no. Then she smiles darkly and her eyes become small.

A woman radio journalist rang. She has to call someone every half hour, Ilse Aichinger said apologetically.

Then she said into the phone: "Ten new pages to read in summer? I've already published a book. I don't have ten new pages."

Under the date 1977 Ilse Aichinger made this entry: "One should not say all at once what one has to say."

Verena Auffermann

(Nürnberger Nachrichten, 19 March 1988)

New head of Christie's in Hamburg

Christiane, Countess Rantzau, is head of the Hamburg branch of Christie's, the British auction house established in 1766.

From her Hamburg office she looks after Christie's interests in North Germany. Christie's have branches in Düsseldorf and Munich.

Only laymen believe that North Germany is undeveloped in the arts like Westphalia.

The 29-year-old Countess said that Christie's had organised successful auctions of modern art. Last year £24m was paid for van Gogh's 'Sunflowers' and £12m for 'Le Pont de Trinquetaille.'

These are impressive sums. She proudly points to Christie's prospectus.

In fluent English into the telephone she tries to sell her London head office old German toys and dolls. There is not always a lot of art to be handled. But auctions have to be organised. The firm depends on them with its ten-per-cent commission on sales.

Christie's people have to be out and about in Germany on the look out for lucrative items and put them on the road for a change of owner. The commission is the attraction.

"If our clients are swimming about helplessly they can turn to us with complete confidence. We give advice about building up or reducing a collection."



Christiane, Countess Rantzau
(Photo: Hartmut Bartels)

Christie's are above all things discreet. A client's identity is always protected so that no unauthorised person gets to know who has to sell a work of art or where an expensive gift will be hanging on the wall.

If an artist finds his work included in a Christie's auction then all that is left to him is to bow his head before his own work and take note that he has taken up a place in history.

It is a difficult task laying down what art is worth in deutschemarks or sterling. Does one need the knowledge and experienced from a long life in the art world?

Countess Rantzau makes rough estimates of the value of works of art and sets prices for inclusion in the catalogue.

How is she able to price pictures from the renaissance to modern times?

She herself says that she is also responsible for pricing silverware, chairs and other works from various centuries.

She worked for three and a half years at a well-known art auctioneers in Munich. But the secret of her knowledge is a crash course on art history.

The Countess likes to recall the nine months of waiting for the great event. She had to visit many castles and write a thesis at the end. Art history students require years rather than months to do this. When she had successfully passed

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■ PHOTOGRAPHY

German Faces of 40 years ago back in Berlin

An exhibition of Henry Ries's photographs has opened in Berlin, the city where he was born in 1917.

His book *German Faces*, based on press photographs he took in post-war Germany, has been reprinted to coincide with the exhibition.

Ries, a German-American, was *the* photographer of the Berlin Blockade. He was in Berlin in 1948 when the hot phase of the Cold War opened.

The New York Times commissioned him to photograph the squadrons of the Berlin airlift.

He photographed the people in the blockaded city and the city itself. He took pictures that are now listed in any good photographic archives. The negatives are owned by Berlin's Senate. He presented them to the city 20 years ago.

Berlin officials did not know how it happened when they learned that the city had been offered this historic collection. The way it happened was comparatively unusual.

Henry Ries was in New York with a staff member from the Smithsonian Institute, Washington, who was interested in the photographs.

The Exhibition: Henry Ries — Photos from Berlin, Germany and Europe 1946-51, at the Berlinische Galerie until the end of August.

The Book: Henry Ries: Deutsche (German Faces), published by Argon Verlag, Berlin, 160 pages, 80 black and white photographs, DM36.

His companion from Washington told him that they were historic documents. Henry Ries recalls that he had not seen them in this light.

He found the negatives and original prints from 1948 in a box, stored away with a lot of other stuff that he had collected over the years.

Then he had the sentimental feeling that the pictures belonged to Berlin.

He grew up in Berlin during the Weimar Republic. His parents were well-to-do Jews.

Young Ries felt himself to be German in every sense of the word. He was blue-eyed and blond and he could have continued to feel in this way until suddenly his Jewish origins began to separate him from Germans.

He recalls that the day after Hitler came to power he was sitting in school on a bench for three when suddenly he was quite alone. The two non-Jews had gone off.

But, he says, young lads in Berlin at the time were still pragmatic. "I was a very good pupil. A few days later they again sat by me, because they wanted to look into my exercise books," he said. Henry was then called Heinz and was a smart young lad.

With some pleasure he recalls that after the change in the political situation he had no problems going out with "Aryan" girls. His kind were much in demand.

Henry Ries also still recalls with delight a new biology teacher, a rather crotchety, sinister character with the Nazi party badge in his lapel, who strove to inititate adolescents into the basics of racial theory.

Henry was in the front row and was superbly suitable to demonstrate the characteristics of the Aryan principle.

When the demonstration of Aryan external characteristics was completed Heinz said to the teacher:

"May I say something?" — "Yes, of course, Ries." — "I am Jewish." (The class bawled with delight."

His father, like so many German Jews, believed that the situation would not get serious. Heinz Ries thought differently.

Gradually he began to comprehend the threatening danger of Nazi Germany. In 1938 he emigrated to America. It was not easy.

Henry Ries, still known as Heinz, could tell endless stories about how high the hurdles were that a Jewish emigré had to surmount to get to America.

He said: "It was relatively easy getting out of Germany, but it was very tough getting into America."

It was also very difficult for an emigré like Ries to join the Army. He wanted to get into the war against Hitler.

"I was an enemy alien," he said. He was also Jewish and a refugee. He was not only not allowed to join the Army but had to hand in his camera and radio.

Berlin airlift, July 1948

With the help of friends and a fair share of audacity he went to the Pentagon, directly to the officer responsible for recruitment.

At last he was successful. He joined the air force. But what was more important he became an American with the Christian name Henry.

A few days after the war had ended he was posted to Europe. He was a specialist in aerial photography.

Until then he had been in India — "perhaps because I could speak German well," he said.

But now, in the political clearing-up in the post-war period, German-American Ries was needed in Germany.

At first he worked as a translator of documents which had been found in *Himmler's secret archives.*

He said: "We sat over reports in which experiments on human beings by concentration camp doctors were described, unimaginable horrors described in exact detail."

The team of translators was posted to Berlin in late summer 1945. "After a gap of seven years I was once more Heinz-Henry. I would not have come back in the normal course of events."

Henry Ries describes a telling experience on his first day back at Zehlendorf at five in the morning when the Stars and Stripes were unfurled to a trumpet solo.

He saw an old man with a rickety cart who came by at that moment. He took off his cap and apathetically waited for the victors' ceremony to come to an end.

"When I saw this old man I asked myself: Who is he, who am I?" Ries said.

The old man could have been a Nazi, a fellow-traveller or an informer. Or had he helped Jews, as Henry's "Aryan" nanny had helped Henry and his sister Steffi?

Who knows, Henry asked himself, perhaps the old man had risked his neck in the resistance?

Henry then began to realise that in 1938, as a 20-year-old, he had not fled out of conscious opposition to the Nazis, but because to remain would have been dangerous. He said: "I would rather have stayed in Berlin."

He added: "I was lucky that I was Jewish." This thought has since been on his mind a lot.

Henry Ries tried to find the Germans and himself. He had become a photographer for an American armed forces magazine. Later he changed to the *New York Times.*

He toured Berlin for days on end with camera and notebook in hand. He went to West Germany which was for Ries, a Berliner, a foreign country, to Essen, Mittenwald, Bonn.

He had the idea for a book, *German Faces*. It was to become a bestseller in America at the beginning of the 1950s, the first popular source of information on the defeated enemy. For readers in this country it is a document that in retrospect is shattering.

Henry Ries produced, alongside the pictures, a text on the discussions he had had with people. They did not talk about liberation or the new starting point for the country.

The text shows a defeated people whose bitterness and anger is not directed against the criminal regime that had brought the country to defeat and destruction.

Since the middle of the 1950s Henry Ries has lived in New York. He was beginning to forget the Germany that he had had to leave 50 years ago and saw in a different guise 40 years ago. He said: "I no longer want to stand between two worlds. Now I am really an American."

There are pictures that show that not only the historic moment is important; the photographer must also be a match for them.

The photographer explains with his camera through an analytical understanding of the background and a sharp appreciation of the situation.

There are only a few who can do this. Henry Ries is one of them.

Werner A. Perger

(Deutsches Allgemeines Sonntagsblatt, Hamburg, 13 March 1988)

Continued from page 1

tanks and field guns. Bonn views this as unacceptable.

In view of the complexity of the subject-matter and the positions outlined it remains to be seen whether the negotiations on the disarmament of conventional forces between the Atlantic and the Urals make more progress at a more rapid pace than the MBFR talks.

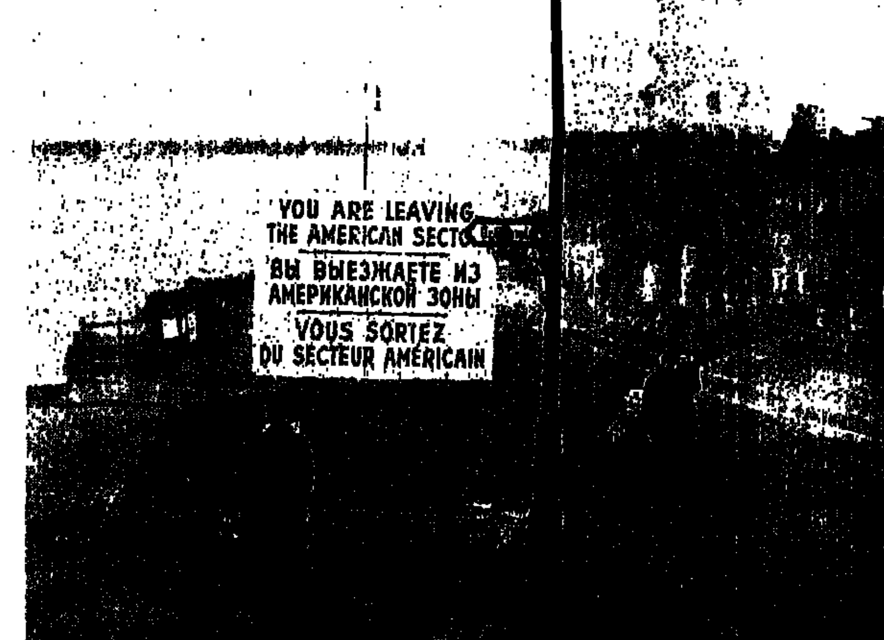
All the MBFR talks have to do is to reach agreement on the numbers of troops — a task which overtaxed the negotiating parties for almost 15 years.

Initial Soviet reactions suggest that scepticism is advisable.

According to *Tass*, the Soviet news agency, Bonn's proposal sets out to destroy the structure of the Soviet armed forces without in any way changing the structure and arms level of the Nato alliance.

Karl Feldmeyer

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 23 March 1988)





Post-war border between East and West Berlin
(Photo: Catalogue)

■ ENVIRONMENT

European Year of the Environment was a flop, says European Parliament

The Environment Ministers of the 12 European Community countries had no cause for congratulation when they met in Brussels to review 1987, the European Year of the Environment.

The air in the street outside the European Commission building in Brussels is not perceptibly cleaner than it was a year ago.

Ministers and their officials cannot be sure the coffee in their vacuum flasks is any freer of lead, nitrates, pesticides and radioactive contamination.

Even those who don't share the gloomy view of Green MEP Undine Bloch von Blottnitz, who told the European Parliament in Strasbourg the overall outcome of European environmental "window-dressing" had been a disgrace, will have to admit that the European Year of the Environment has resulted in very little less pollution and not much more protection.

The European Parliament, which is increasingly emerging as an advocate of environmental protection and consumer interests, has arrived at a damning all-party conclusion.

Crucial environmental problems have still to be solved, it says. Legal provisions in European Community countries have not been improved to any great extent. None of the major environmental legislation planned by member-countries was passed during Environment Year.

Where European Community guidelines exist, member-countries have often been very slow to incorporate them in national legislation, and when, after lengthy delays, they have done so, national legislation has been incomplete.

Social Democratic MEP Beate Weber from Heidelberg, chairwoman of the European Parliament's environmental affairs committee, lists the failures:

- The 12 Environment Ministers failed to agree on *pollution control regulations* for static emission by coal-fired power stations.
- The European Community's emission ceilings for pollution-controlled cars are arguably too high and certainly way above statutory ceilings in the United States.
- The radioactive contamination ceilings for foodstuffs, finally agreed after a lengthy tug-of-war, are twice as high as the levels laid down by the European Commission after Chernobyl.
- The Montreal protocol on limited



measures to protect the ozone layer in the upper atmosphere has not been ratified.

- *Free public access to environmental information* has still not been guaranteed.

In connection with the correspondingly unsatisfactory conclusion of the European Year of the Environment the European Parliament has made another attempt to impress on member-countries their environmental policy sins of omission and commission.

It has approved three parliamentary reports outlining missed opportunities and legal breaches in member-countries in connection with elementary essentials: the air we breathe and the water we drink.

Greek Christian Democrat Panayotis Lambrias referred, in presenting the findings of his report on the lead count in tap water, to "Kafkaesque conditions" in respect of the implementation of the European Community guideline in member-countries.

"No-one knows who abides by which regulations," he said.

Christian Democratic MEP Siegbert Alber from Stuttgart presented an alarming report on atmospheric pollution in which he lamented the powerlessness of the European Commission to check or control what went on.

The European Community, he said, has issued 198 guidelines on environmental and consumer protection, but 55 guidelines have yet to be incorporated in national legislation in one or more member-countries.

No fewer than 177 court cases are *pending in* which member-countries stand accused of breaches of environmental commitments.

No matter where they looked, at the pumping of toxic substances into rivers, lakes and waterways or at the quality of bathing or tap water, MEPs came up against breaches of European Community regulations by member-countries.

The authorities showed inadequate interest in introducing and enforcing quality standards in keeping with strict scientific findings.

In Munich, for instance, people were long allowed to bathe in the River Isar even though its water quality fell short of European Community standards.

What has since happened? Have the municipal authorities done anything to improve the water quality? Not they. They have simply removed the "Bathing Permitted" signs.

Lead in tap water is highly toxic and a serious health hazard. It is acknowledged to destroy the red blood corpuscles and lead to anaemia and, possibly, cause cancer.

Yet nearly all member-countries were late in introducing and enforcing the European Community's lead count guideline, thereby endangering in particular the health of children and pregnant women, for whom even minute concentrations are harmful.

In some areas of the Community, such as Britain, where water is still pumped to consumers through lead pipes tap water continues to contain unacceptably high levels of lead pollution.

The Federal Republic of Germany, which prides itself on being a model of environmental propriety and pacemaker among the Twelve, is in breach of European environmental regulations in such essential respects as protection of ground and tap water.

Germany in particular, Frau Weber says, has been particularly slow to implement European Community regulations.

It has either dragged its feet before doing so or only partially, and tardily, made provision to enforce them.

Given this disappointing environmental balance sheet the European Parliament has drawn up a list of demands.

The European Commission, it says, must set up an inspectorate of its own to monitor pollution in member-countries, using mobile measuring stations and taking samples to specify offences and help to bring offenders to book.

A complaint form has existed for some time to be used by members of the public who want to lodge environmental complaints with the European Commission. Its existence must be made more widely known.

Watchdog committee

An environmental watchdog committee needs to be set up to review the implementation of Community law in member-countries and to monitor the European Commission's performance in respect of statutory notification of member-countries and the implementation of verdicts reached by the European Court of Justice.

The Luxembourg court still has no sanctions. It must be enabled to act against *member-countries* and *check* whether its verdicts are implemented throughout the Community.

Yet even its critics in the European Parliament concede that the European Year of the Environment has heightened environmental awareness in Western Europe.

It has redirected regional fund and European Investment Bank funds into environmental protection and brought about a number of improvements in nature conservation. *Thomas Gack*

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 18 March 1988)

Continued from page 8

as is common in the USA and other countries.

To this can be added the fact that oil millionaires from the Middle East are not likely to be interested in stock issues of German companies on German stock markets.

They show little interest in non-voting preference shares and are discouraged by the 10-per-cent voting limit imposed in the 1970s to keep petrodollars at bay.

It is doubtful whether in the future there will be exciting rises in minor stock prices on German stock exchanges because of take-over bid speculations. *Leo Fischer*

(Rheinischer Merkur/Christ und Welt, Bonn, 18 March 1988)

Rhine pollution weighs heavily on Rotterdam

Not until the beaver and the salmon return to the Rhine, Britain's Stanley Johnson, European Community commissioner for environmental affairs, told the International Rhine Conference held at the European Parliament in Strasbourg, will the smile return to the *Loreley's face.*

The conference, held by the Dutch National Environmental Protection Committee, was attended by 120 delegates.

They all agreed that risk management can only hope to succeed within a framework of close international cooperation between government agencies and industrial companies in the four countries through which the river passes.

This was said to require "harmonisation of environmental protection provisions" in France, Germany, Holland and Switzerland and "intensive communication" between their respective authorities.

Councillor M. J. Jansen of Rotterdam made it clear how much toxic material his city had to handle.

It is the world's largest port, handling roughly 250 million tons of cargo a year, and he is responsible for environmental issues to the city council.

Holland, he said, had to dredge 23 million cubic metres of toxic sludge from the Port of Rotterdam, which forms part of the Rhine estuary delta.

This sludge is so polluted, particularly with heavy metals such as cadmium, chromium, copper, lead and zinc, that it can neither be pumped into the North Sea nor used in landfill work and the construction of Holland's famous dikes.

Rotterdam has had to set up a special dump for Rhine sludge. Recently completed, it cost roughly DM180m and is large enough to take sludge dredged from the Port until the year 2002.

The city had no intention of building a second dump of such gigantic size in 20 years' time, he said. Besides, Rhine pollution offenders in Switzerland, France and Germany ought also to help foot Rotterdam's sludge disposal bill.

Industry, which was represented for the first time at an international Rhine conference of this kind, stressed that it was willing in principle to play an active part in improving environmental protection, especially of the Rhine.

But care must be taken to ensure, as German industrial spokesmen were particularly anxious to note, that the introduction and implementation of environmental protection measures in, say, the chemical industry were "internationally harmonised."

If this was not ensured, competitive distortion would result, with a paralysing effect on industrial readiness to invest in expensive but environmentally sound manufacturing techniques.

Ernst Ulrich von Weizsäcker, head of the European Environment Policy Institute, was critical of the course the Strasbourg conference took.

He felt the "topological aspect" had been paid too little attention in what had been an "extremely rich and varied conference."

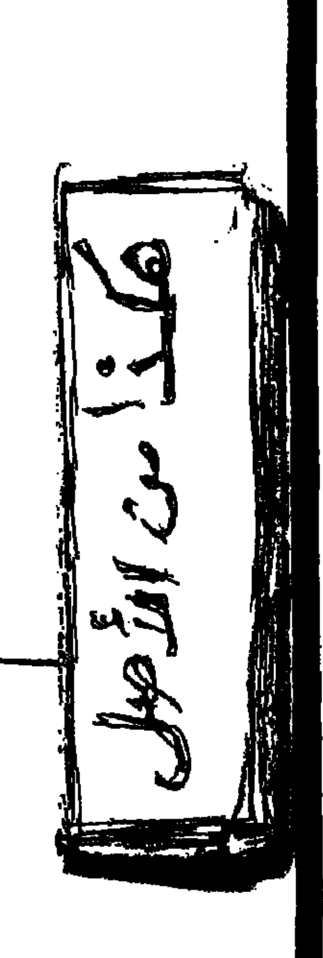
After the Sandoz catastrophe, in which chemicals polluted Rhine water downstream from Basle, the river had been found to undergo a process of biological reactivation starting from water *that had not been affected.*

More attention, he said, must be paid to "river regulation."

He also saw a need to draw up ecological standards that were practicable for industry and actionable for the public prosecutor's office.

Maybe, he felt, we were pursuing the wrong policies on the Rhine because the wrong people had wrong information at their disposal. *Helmut Hetzel*

(Die Welt, Bonn, 8 March 1988)



■ OUR WORLD

Freiburg scientist surveys world sleeping habits

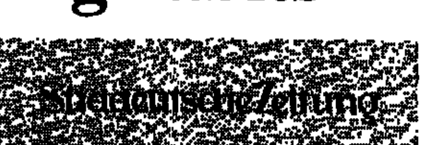
A Freiburg University survey of global sleeping habits says people who live along traditional lines on all continents and even in industrialised conditions in South and East Asia sleep better than people in the West despite less favourable sleeping conditions.

The survey is the work of medical anthropologist Winfried Effelsberg of Freiburg University neurological clinic. He says between a third and a fourth of the population in industrialised Western countries have sleep disturbances.

Western tourists in Asia have long been amazed by the ability of Asians on long journeys to sleep on rattling buses and trains. Most Westerners cannot sleep under such conditions.

In most countries people go to bed at night and get up the following morning to go to work. They usually finish work in the evening. The time between finishing work and going to bed is leisure time. But such sleeping habits are by no means universal.

The Mayans in Yucatan for instance, have a completely different timetable.



They get up at three in the morning to make their social calls.

The Yahans of Tierra del Fuego are another exception. Whenever they feel tired they simply doze off and wake up when they are refreshed.

The Yahans can also go without sleep for long periods without getting tired, though at some later stage they have to make up for the loss of sleep with long rests.

The Uni Cashibos, an Amazon tribe, sleep in intervals which are continually interrupted by states of being half and fully awake. When they wake up they eat, talk, listen to the radio or smoke a cigarette.

Their nocturnal recreation, even when it's noisy, does not awaken other people sleeping nearby. However, they wake up if they hear something important - like a dog attacking chickens or a married couple fighting. They do what they can and then go back to sleep.

The Temiar in Malaysia and the Iban in Sarawak sleep a maximum of six hours. *During the night a quarter of* them are always busy cooking or chopping wood. Apart from meal times, there are always some people sleeping during the day.

Effelsberg says the study shows that sleeping habits like those above used to be more widespread on all continents.

In the Middle Ages whole families used to sleep together, sometimes with guests, in the same room or bed. A famous Tudor bed called the "Bed of Ware" in an old English inn, still bears witness to this mediaeval custom.

The bed is nine square metres and tired guests used to sleep in a heap on it.

The mediaeval habit of hosts, guests and friends sleeping in a communal bed was not only due to the hardship and the cold.

Effelsberg says communal sleeping gave people a feeling of solidarity. It was easier to control the movements of family members such as the daughters. Examples of this today are the military, monasteries and boarding schools which also have great dormitories that rob the individual of privacy.

Sleeping aids like mats, mattresses, pillows and blankets are found all over the world. Archaeologists have found different types of ancient headrests in Egypt, Europe, Africa and Asia.

In southern New Guinea some people sleep on dead relatives' skulls. They *believe the skull has magical powers which* can enhance the sleeper's power.

Some countries have special heaters which help one to get to sleep. The Dutch invented a unique one called the "Guling" in Indonesia.

It is a pillow one metre long with a diameter of 30 centimetres. One wraps one's legs and arms around it. In warm regions it soaks up unpleasant sweat. It's still used today by Europeans and Indonesians of mixed stock.

Unusual massage techniques have been used to foster sleep. On Tonga the wealthy made their servants massage them for hours and sometimes even for nights at a time. The servants chopped gently with their fists the insomniac's posterior and thighs.

The technique relaxed and promoted a good night's sleep. Poor insomniacs without servants achieved the same effect by getting three or four of their *offspring to trample on them.*

In India some parents used water to get their children off to sleep. They connected a bamboo pipe up to a stream and massaged their child's head with a jet of water until it dropped off to sleep. The water flowed out of the house along a narrow channel.

Effelsberg says additional extensive studies on the sleeping habits of different cultures and the importance of rest and activity would improve our knowledge of the circumstances which play an important role in the personal attitude of people to sleep. They could serve as a basis for a new evaluation of sleep and help people to sleep better. *Franziska Becher*

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, Munich, 17 March 1988)

New head

Continued from page 10

the "general course of fine and decorative arts from the renaissance to the present day" she was prepared to become the representative for Christie's for art in North Germany.

Expressing her view on art she said: "Most people are interested in modern art." Subject, quality?

"No, the prices for these pictures increase best of all." Then ten per cent for Christie's.

Is there any demand for German *expressionists? Dix and Kirchner show* gains that go into the hundreds of millions.

If you do not have a lot of money there is little hope of acquiring much. Prices have become so astronomical that only dilettante collectors with plenty of money have any hope of acquiring items.

But they do not need to give up. They can get out of the situation where prices have been pushed up high and shuffle the cards anew.

Auction houses do not set trends they just have to react.

Connoisseurs are snapping up just about every passable painting from Schleswig-Holstein dating from the middle of the last century.

Who knows, perhaps someone will come along and recognise the beauty of these pictures and the prices will rocket sky-high.

This happened with a fireman who collected Scandinavian paintings at a time when connoisseurs did not have the faintest idea that there was any painting in oil in the north.

Now Scandinavian art is in vogue and the gentleman is doing fabulous business.

He gave up putting out fires and made his hobby his profession.

Frank Sauerland

(Deutsches Allgemeines Sonntagsblatt, Hamburg, 20 March 1988)

Men's advice bureau opens in Frankfurt

Most German cities have women's centres. Frankfurt now has one for men, probably the first of its kind.

If men cannot cope any more because they have problems with their families, with being single, at work, with their psychological or physical health or with the role of being a man — the centre says this is a common complaint — then they just have to reach for the phone and ring the centre.

If one sees men as being the stronger sex — a shaky view these days — one will be surprised at the length of the list of masculine complaints.

The centre regularly hears complaints about the pressure at work. Some complain that fatherhood has left them permanently discontented.

Then there are the men who are lucky if they can leave work in a good mood even two or three times a week.

A self-help initiative set up the centre with the idea of offering conversation *groups to discuss such problems.* Günther Querfurth, who organised the centre, said:

"Participants see that other men have the same problems." The men try together to find, and often do find, solutions to their problems.

Men can usually only speak about sexual or behavioural problems with other men.

The groups discuss themes such as sexuality, the relationship problems of *single men*, psychotherapy and even sterilisation.

They also have courses for couples who want to discuss their relationship problems.

The centre uses body decorating, massage and games which promote trust to help people overcome their problems. The centre also gives out medical advice.

It is open to the public on Mondays *and Thursdays between 5 and 8 p.m.* for anonymous advice. *Albert Bechtold*

(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 1 March 1988)

Inability to communicate leads to divorce, Munich experts say

The saying "What God has brought to together let no man put asunder" is largely ignored these days. Germany's family law judges have a lot of work on their hands. Divorce has become an everyday affair in Germany.

Professor Kurt Hahlweg says about 35 per cent of married people are not content with their partners. Every fourth marriage in Germany ends in divorce.

Dr Hahlweg, a psychiatrist at the Max Planck Institute for Psychiatry in Munich, says the main reason for this is, surprisingly, not social or financial pressures.

It is the increasing incapacity of people to solve problems by talking with each other.

Psychologist Volker Eckert of the Munich Institute of Communication Therapy says:

The decisive things in the course of a good relationship are not so much the problems which crop up, but rather the way in which the partners deal with them."

Hahlweg and Eckert are working together with the Catholic Church on a unique German project to promote and *train engaged couples in communicativeness before marriage.*

Four couples come together for six evenings and are taught, said Eckert, "to consciously behave and converse in a way which promotes relationships and how to recognise and rectify behaviour which damages them."

Hahlweg says the goal of the marriage preparation course is more than the expressing of feelings and desires and the perception of mutual expectations typical of self-encounter groups.

Its main goal was to train people how to discuss their problems with each other.

Evidence suggests that the children of divorced parents often develop behavioural problems.

If parents can make their marriages work they would be doing their children a great service.

The project has a budget of *DM720,000 and will run for an initial* four years. The Bavarian Ministry for Social Security is paying half of the budget.

The (Roman Catholic) bishops' conference is paying 30 per cent and the archdiocese of Munich and Freising 20 per cent.

Monsignor Sebastian Anneser, head of the archdiocese of Munich's chaplaincy section, justified the church's involvement when the "point in question is the indissolubility of marriage."

He also said we should offer more than just marriage therapy.

We should also, *with the help of qualified marriage guidance counsellors,* help give marriages a lasting permanence. *Peter Schmalz*

(Die Welt, Bonn, 17 March 1988)

■ MODERN LIVING

Freiburg psychologist probes occult craze among German schoolchildren

A survey has been carried out on the influence of the occult in schools in the Saar and in Trier and Koblenz in Rhineland-Palatinate.

It was carried out by Johannes Mischo, professor of psychology at Freiburg University, and Bernd Lambert from the schools department of the Roman Catholic diocese of Trier.

Esoteric books crowd the bookshelves in bookshops. Pulp magazines delight in describing satanic masses and other occult activities.

A "spiritual address book" indicates the track to be taken in the world of the spirits for a specific need.

The longing for the supernatural increases all the time and there is much in it that is dangerous.

Professor Mischo sees in this interest in the occult a renaissance of "old spiritualist practices."

His department in Freiburg University receives approximately 3,000 requests for information about the occult per year.

The Education Ministry in Mainz, shocked by this interest in the occult that extends from unspecified "events" to prophecies of death at schools in the Rhineland-Palatinate, takes the view that youth sects are being replaced by what the occult has to offer.

In the survey 520 questionnaires were sent out to Catholic teachers in high schools: 138 were returned and they have now been assessed.

The survey showed that almost 85 of the teachers questioned dealt with occultism in their classes. The initiative for this came primarily from pupils themselves — 67 per cent.

Manifestly then this deals with a problem schoolboys and girls have and it requires psychological and educational consideration.

The themes raised in class were based on the pupils' personal experiences in occult practices.

The most popular practice by far was a glass moving across letters to spell out words, then automatic writing, table levitation and oscillations, all interpreted spiritually.

Professor Mischo said that these techniques brought into action deep levels of the personality and produced messages from the unconscious that were regarded as inimical to a person's wellbeing.

These "psychic automatisms," which have been explored since the spiritualist fad of the 1850s, show a tendency to personification. This is why the more or less intelligent products were described as "spirits."

This impression is strongly held by schoolboys and girls, according to Mischo, when "inexplicable knowledge" is added or when objects move as if they were self-propelled.

Here one must differentiate between a hallucination, a deception or genuine parapsychological experiences from the unconscious. Schoolboys and girls explain the sources of all this as a message, primarily of a spiritual significance — from the dead, the reincarnated, unseen spirits or demons, which enter the human psyche.

According to Mischo the practice of getting into uncontrolled contact with the unconscious in groups can become addictive.

The results can be a withdrawal from daily life with difficulties at school and problems in learning, increased anxiety and an unconscious wish to fulfill messages from the spiritual world.

Twenty-four per cent of the teachers said their pupils suffered from depression, considered doing harm to themselves or others and disturbances resembling psychological disorders. At least 40 cases of this kind have been recorded.

The schoolboys and girls were also very interested in such things as reading playing cards and horoscopes.

Magical practices such as for example the "prescriptions" from the 6th and 7th chapters in the Book of Moses (a product of the Middle Ages) are just ahead of listening to pop groups with a background of dealing in the occult.

This accounts for the popularity of groups with such names as "Black Sabbath," "Black Widow" or "Tyrannosaurus Rex."

Heavy Metal Music has now taken a new direction, called Black Metal, which is described as "satanic pop."

There is also considerable interest in Satan cults and the Black Mass, a favourite topic of the popular press.

The teachers in the survey said that curiosity was the main motive for young people getting mixed up in the occult — 72 per cent.

They also listed a decline in religious education — 32 per cent — and a search for identity among young people — 20 per cent.

The social aspect, doing what one's contemporaries do, only plays a minor role, according to the Catholic teachers.

Although the teachers have made efforts to gain information about the occult from a number of sources, more than three-quarters of them regarded themselves as being inadequately informed on the subject.

The diocese of Trier is planning further events in which teachers can get to know more about the confrontation with the supernatural.

Radio Luxembourg has already taken up the theme. In a programme entitled "Unbelievable Stories" followers of various spiritual practices can have their say.

The survey among the teachers showed that they did not criticise the radio station for beaming the programme, but the evaluation of the survey did include the comment:

"We have instances where the Radio Luxembourg programme has stimulated interest in the occult, but the survey of the teachers does not reveal a direct link between the programme and various practices."

Professor Mischo has come to some very definite conclusions as a result of the survey.

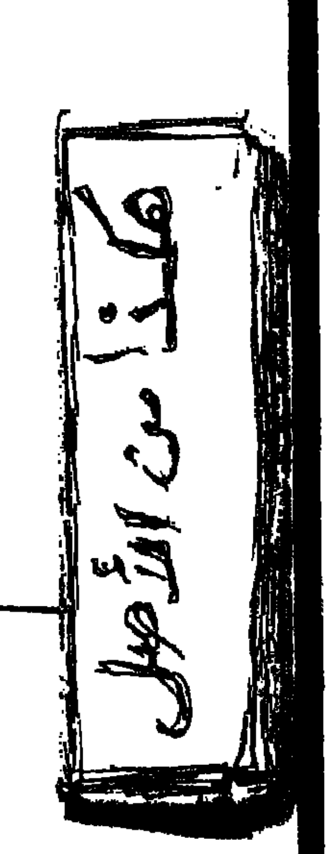
He believes there is an urgent need for professional advice and research to deal with the "spread of this epidemic of the occult," which he regards as "a dangerous drug." There is a need for cash and personnel. His department in Freiburg University has a budget of DM5,000.

It is proposed to carry out another survey of the 850 psycho-*social and* advisory centres in the Federal Republic.

They should be able to give a picture of the extent of the "damage the occult is doing among young people."

Eckhart Kauntz

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 9 March 1988)



Self-help groups help to cut health service costs

Since the end of the 1970s approximately 40,000 self-help groups have been established in the Federal Republic.

These groups are made up of people who have got together to find a way out of personal suffering or who want to plug a gap in the network of social care in the country.

What is new about this now is that they are increasingly getting support from government.

The Bonn Youth, Family, Women *and Health Affairs Ministry* is to hand out DM1.9m annually for a three-year pilot scheme for the benefit of alternative projects.

This money will be used to finance full-time staffers in 16 cities in the country who will give advice and provide information to local groups.

Berlin, a city with any number of social problems, has been a pioneer in this development. There are more alternative or self-help organisations there than anywhere else in the Federal Republic.

In Berlin activities are mainly carried on by volunteers. Ulf Fink, senator responsible for health, social and family affairs, said:

"People can only work together in areas of life on a scale to which they can easily relate. For this reason we must not further enlarge the welfare state. We must concentrate on the human factors."

Fink has created the so-called "Berlin Model," a *support* fund for self-help groups that is to get DM10m this year.

Münster, Munich, Bremen and Hamburg have created similar funds.

There are various reasons why people from different walks of life get together in a self-help group.

There are such distress reasons as unemployment and the threat of environmental pollution as well as a declining confidence that politicians can solve these problems.

Organisations that deal with a specific problem grow from the initiative of a small group. An example is the case of parents who have lost a child.

A Dortmund pastor brought two mothers and fathers together, affected in this way, three years ago. Now there are similar associations in many cities in the Federal Republic.

A current example is the assistance given to Aids sufferers via the Deutsche AIDS-Hilfe organisation. This voluntary organisation was set up long before the government did anything.

The motivation behind alternative groups in the commercial sector is to do

Continued on page 15

■ EDUCATION

Silver jubilee of school for sick children in Münster

Twenty-five years ago a small school was set up within Münster University Hospital to provide teaching facilities for sick children.

It started with a staff of two and now has 23. Two years ago it was taken over by the local education authority and renamed the Helen Keller School.

Within the impersonal clinic complex there is a group of buildings that have a less forbidding appearance.

Leaving the lift on the 7th floor the visitor encounters a highly-imaginative picture, painted by the young patients, pointing the way to the bright classrooms.

There is nothing to recall the stale atmosphere that is so usual in our educational institutions.

I met Johanna Maria Lange, headmistress of the school. In 1963 she put into effect the idea of the then hospital director; to establish a school for sick children within the hospital.

Over the years it has developed to a school whose structure takes in students from all types of school and at all age levels.

Its success has a lot to do with Frau Lange's personality. In every classroom *there is a positive, unsentimental* atmosphere.

There are on the staff three high school teachers, two secondary school teachers, six elementary school teachers and 12 special teachers.

They have won over the 140 schoolboys and girls in their charge with their sense of motivation and enthusiasm.

The school is full of meaningful activity and has not become, as many feared, a muted establishment little related to the normal routine of life.

About 1,000 children pass through the school in the course of the year. Apart from the university hospital itself they come from psychiatric departments for young people, the orthopaedic department, the dialysis department and other medical centres as well as from municipal clinics.

Herr Kubina is teaching two schoolgirls from the eleventh and ninth grades of a high school (Gymnasium) in mathematics.

While Karin, 14, gives her attention to *Pythagoras's Theorem the teacher gives* his attention to Ilona, two years older, who is doing mathematics as a main subject.

Without the teacher being present both girls spoke without bias and positively about the time they had had to spend in hospital.

They were both confident that they would be able to rejoin their classes even after longer and repeated intervals away from school.

They could return to their normal

RHEINISCHER MERKUR

school and rejoin the teaching programme straight away without having to carry on their schooling separated from the main stream because of being away from school due to illness.

The 30-minute lessons in hospital have made this possible.

The purpose of the school in a hospital is, briefly, to enable schoolboys and girls to return to their classes without having fallen too far behind.

It dispels the worries they have about falling behind at school, coming in addition to the worries they already have about their health.

It would be one-sided, however, to define the hospital school only with this practical aim in mind.

Instruction that is personal and takes into consideration the child's psychological and psychiatric stitution brings back into the young patient's life a sense of rhythm and normality.

This is a godsend for young patients whose illness has cut them off from the routine of life.

The school teaches its curriculum, gives a sense of achievement and/or frustration, just like a normal school. But failures can be cushioned by the more personal contact with teachers.

The teacher is the person to whom the child can relate. He can pass on the children's worries and anxieties to their doctor.

Frau Schmidt-Ehmcke, a young teacher with additional art teaching qualifications, regards the sensitive give and take between teacher and pupil as a step towards helping the young people to develop and mature.

This is important within the enclosed *atmosphere of a stay in a clinic for the* adjustments necessary for a handicap that might last a lifetime.

Frau Schmidt-Ehmcke teaches German to children in the fifth class. This includes grammatical concepts that are demonstrated by games.

This is more difficult for two Turkish boys than their German schoolfellows. One of them has had to stay many months in the clinic for complicated orthopaedic treatment.

His teacher is glad that she has gradually been able to bring him out of his anxieties and sense of isolation. She has encouraged him to make a new friend out of his small fellow-countryman.

In another room a specialist male and female teacher give their attention to six mentally handicapped boys and girls aged between 14 and 16.

They sing a nursery song and Gerhardt spontaneously gives a solo from his bed.

During the breakfast break he serves the others soft drinks from a large lemonade bottle and cake. This is quite an effort because the boy has to lie on his back all the time, but he manages with the help of the lady teacher.

The teachers' most important task is to train their young charges in acceptable social behaviour. It is particularly noticeable how the boys and girls have complete trust in their teachers.

This is made obvious by the friendly way they mix with each other. There is a relaxed atmosphere that the visitor notices immediately.

One lady teacher said that in the school the boys and girls learn that being ill is all part of the normal experience of living.

This idea was contained in the words that Frau Lange said to me when I left: "The sick person is also healthy." She said that we must address ourselves to him with that in mind and activate him.

She said that encouraging the healthy part of a person helped to overcome illness. Education for the sick implies tailoring teaching to the children's situation.

Finding the right level of demands to make is a delicate task, especially when you want to make sure you aren't being overdemanding or overprotective.

It can only be achieved by harmonious teamwork between doctors, teachers and psychologists in cooperation with parents and with the usual school the young people attend.

This school is provided with information from the hospital school when the boy or girl is discharged.

This teamwork is made possible by weekly conferences among other things and includes medical training for teachers.

The new director of the university hospital, Professor Dieter Harms, has a high opinion of them. He appreciates that he is discovering the influence such a unique school as a hospital school can exert.

The fact is not lost on him that there is an increase in the number of children who are chronically ill and whose schooling needs must be taken into account since they are regularly admitted to hospital.

To these can be added children who have to go into hospital because of an accident or who have to spend long times in hospital for treatment for other reasons.

Between ten to 12 per cent of young people who are in hospital are long-stay patients.

This includes children suffering from cancer. Thanks to developments in medicine over the past ten years at least 65 per *cent of them can be cured.*

It is very important that these children should be given the will to overcome their sickness. It is also important that they should be psychologically and educationally prepared for rehabilitation.

What about children who have no hope of surviving? Why should they do lessons?

School achievement is not important for them. The important point is that they are in the company of teachers. This is a question of letting them live for the day, for the moment and "expand the present by giving them personal affection."

The teacher, by their side in their *need and anxiety, is a key figure for* these children. Teachers who teach in hospitals are of particular help in these terminal situations.

For the past two years the school in Münster has borne a new name. It is called the Helen Keller School.

The efforts Helen Keller, an American woman born deaf and blind, made to overcome her handicaps "are a symbol of hope and healing, of the will to conquer illness and the powers of the spirit in every person."

Helen Keller became a writer and social reformer with the help of Anne Sullivan. The teaching staff at the Münster school see the incentives and aims of their work in this ideal teacher-pupil relationship.

Brigitte Macher

(Rheinischer Merkur/Christ und Welt, Bonn, 18 March 1988)

Continued from page 14

something about their own problems and have control over their own lives.

No matter if it involves organic fruit and vegetables, health food shops, women's bookshops, transportation and junk removal collectives, lorry workshops — all involved are on the lookout for a job.

But they are also looking for a new kind of work and quality of life, which they cannot find in the normal job world.

They do not want to work under a management pyramid. They do not want work that pays no consideration to their environment.

They often do not earn much, but they have to put in quite a lot.

Costs from a health point of view would be much higher were it not for these self-help and other organisations. They provide people with stability and integrate them into society.

At 100 locations in the Federal Republic there are self-help groups which concern themselves with emotional health along the lines of the American "Emotions Anonymous." The main centre is in Stuttgart.

These groups have 12 learning programmes. The group members try to overcome depression, anxieties, inferiority complexes and difficulties in making contact.

There has been a timid move from government to provide support for these groups. There is mistrust and suspicion on both sides but that could change if the cost explosion in the health services is not brought under control by economy measures.

Only then will politicians take a different view of self-help groups.

Sigrid Latka-Jöhring

(General-Anzeiger, Bonn, 5 March 1988)

Hanover nursery school for high IQ kids

Brigitte Pollit and her group of eight little people attracted attention at this year's Cebit Fair in Hanover.

She and her tiny charges were there to make contacts and perhaps find sponsors for a Hanover project that is unique in the Federal Republic — a nursery school for gifted children.

The Bonn Education Ministry has financed the pilot project for two years, but there is uncertainty about the future.

Frau Pollit has been working without pay since last July with the children, aged between four and six. All have early in life shown signs of special intelligence.

They can all read and write already. Nathaniel, aged five, has grown up bilingual and speaks fluent English.

There are at present 11 children in the nursery school. The parents pay DM200 a month for them to be there.

"Computers are an everyday thing in nursery schools in America. Gifted children get to know the new technology early in life," she said in an interview with this newspaper at the Hanover Fair.

She added: "We do not want to breed scientists in this group, but merely satisfy the demands highly-gifted children make of us." Experience has shown that highly intelligent children do not get on in normal nursery classes. They are isolated by the other children and threaten to become lone wolves.

To avoid this developing even further later in their education highly-gifted children should be especially prepared fot school.

Brigitte Pollit said: "They are children who are not satisfied with normal instruction. They think about things and go into them more deeply." Nevertheless they also like to play and rollick about.

Over the past few years she has become convinced that society has not found the answer to dealing with highly-gifted children.

"In special areas geniuses such as Boris Becker or Steffi Graf are recognised, but when it is a matter of outstanding people in matters of the intellect then there is a lack of understanding."

She wants to acquire a computer for her charges with a printer or a copying machine to be able to interest highly-gifted children in the new technology at their play.

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 18 March 1988)